



PRESS RELEASE

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## **SURFEBRUARY LAUNCHES 2022 CAMPAIGN AND PLEDGES FUNDRAISING GOAL OF \$1 MILLION FOR CANCER RESEARCH BY ENCOURAGING AUSSIES TO 'CATCH A WAVE A DAY' IN FEBRUARY**

Australian Charity, SurFebruary is proud to launch its 5<sup>th</sup> year, inspiring Australians to 'Catch a Wave a Day' in February 2022 to support Cancer Research at Chris O'Brien Lifehouse – **while announcing a record goal of raising \$1 million.**

Registrations for SurFebruary 2022 open on November 10, 2021 via [surfebruary.com](https://surfebruary.com), encouraging all individuals, groups and communities across Australia to “do good while feeling good” by catching a wave or jumping in the water every day throughout February and raising vital funds for cancer research at Chris O'Brien Lifehouse.

What began as a local 'give back' initiative by Co-Founder and Cancer Survivor, Jenna-Lea Clark and her husband Arron has expanded into being a truly national event with over 1,000 participants to date and more than \$600,000 raised for their long-standing charity partner, not-for-profit cancer hospital Chris O'Brien Lifehouse.

Their 2022 goal of raising \$1 million for cancer research will more than double last year's achievement, with money raised directly supporting vital research into the benefits of supportive care, integrative oncology and new therapeutics and treatments for cancer patients. In 2021 the SurFebruary Cancer Research Fund, provided seed funding for five new projects across various cancer types. Seed funding for research innovation helps develop research projects within Chris O'Brien Lifehouse and encourages new collaborations between different clinical groups across Australia and the world, helping to provide researchers with the pilot data needed to be able to leverage further funding.

A former patient of Chris O'Brien Lifehouse, SurFebruary was originally inspired by Co-Founder Jenna's personal battle after being diagnosed just seven weeks after the birth of her first child with cervical adenocarcinoma, an aggressive form of cervical cancer. As well as life-saving treatment, Jenna was given the opportunity to have another miracle baby, her son Vander, the first born after the trachelectomy procedure at Chris O'Brien Lifehouse.



Co-Founder and Cancer Survivor, Jenna-Lea Clark:

“Now in our fifth year, we’re looking forward to welcoming back past participants and inviting first-timers to immerse themselves in this family-friendly event that celebrates community and raises much-needed funds for cancer research, all while you benefit from the healing nature of the ocean at the same time”.

Chris O'Brien Lifehouse board member and patient advocate, Gail O'Brien AO, says the SurFebruary partnership is one that she has watched grow and of which her late husband would be proud:

“I’ve watched SurFebruary grow over the last 4 years – it’s a wonderful community event which has helped raise over \$600,000 for Chris O'Brien Lifehouse. We are so grateful to SurFebruary for establishing the SurFebruary Cancer Research Fund. This funding from SurFebruary is vital to ensure we remain at the forefront of the latest approaches to cancer care and treatment that will improve health outcomes for patients with cancer and provide them with the best treatment options possible.”

My husband, Chris O'Brien, was a man of science who came to have a holistic understanding of healing,” she explains. “His illness was a gift which taught us that cancer treatment isn’t just medicine. It is a whole life approach.”

**SurFebruary 2022 is open to all ages and skill levels. Registration is free via:**  
[surfebruary.com](https://surfebruary.com)

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