

<b>Project title</b>	<b>Cracking the (immune) code to successful cancer immunotherapy</b>
Recipient	Ms Nicola Principe
Institution	The University of Western Australia
Research description	<p>Australia has one of the highest incidences of mesothelioma in the work, a cancer caused by asbestos. There is no cure for this cancer, and chemotherapy is used to manage the disease.</p> <p>Immunotherapy is an exciting treatment for mesothelioma, working to boost a patient's immune cells (in particular T cells) to clear tumours. It is a breakthrough treatment that leads to cures in some cancer patients, but is ineffective in others, producing severe side effects. This may be due to each patient having a different combination of T cell receptors (TCRs), which dictates what the immune system can respond to. With the current technology to study millions of TCRs at the same time, this project will investigate if distinct combination of TCRs will affect outcomes to immunotherapy in a model of mesothelioma. In doing so we will use TCR diversity as a tool to accurately predict responses to immunotherapy and thereby inform therapy decisions.</p>
Funding from CCWA	\$7,500
Supported	In the names of the Ee Family, Estate of Nancy Goodwin & The Sparkly Umbrella