MYOB Greentree

Client The Florey I **Partner** Ndevr I **Location** Australia
Product MYOB Greentree I **Industry** Non-profit

MYOB Greentree at the frontier of science

The Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health is one of Australia's largest medical research institutes. The not-for-profit organisation conducts scientific, lab-based research on neurological conditions of the brain including epilepsy, dementia, Alzheimer's disease and addiction. The institute employs about 600 people, spread across several campuses. Annually it receives around $60 million in funding from federal and state governments, donors, trusts and foundations.

Problem

Paperwork bogging down brain research

"Our organisation is all about people; 70 per cent of our employees are research scientists who don't want the hassle of doing administrative work to ensure they get paid," says Peter Plecher, Group Director (Finance).

As such the Florey was looking for an ERP software that could deliver efficiencies in business administration, freeing up its scientists to focus on advancing brain science. The NFP's key priority was to simplify and automate processes, while removing unnecessary costs.

The stakes were high for the Florey Institute as its long-term viability hinges on researcher satisfaction. "We're just the caretaker of those funds," Peter explains. "The grants are allocated to scientists, who own that funding as individuals. We're in a competitive environment for skilled researchers, so if I don't have the infrastructure in terms of systems, automation, access, information and reporting, they may go elsewhere, taking that funding with them."

The Florey had recently amalgamated with several other research organisations, compounding the problem of the lack of alignment across administration systems.

"Our business systems were fragmented," he recalls. "The purchasing system was separate to GL, which was separate to payroll – this fragmentation was causing us all sorts of grief." A solution was needed to free its scientists from administration drudgery so that they could concentrate on vital medical research and the organisation itself avoid diverting precious resources.

"Fragmentation was causing us all sorts of grief"

Solution

Giving scientists the freedom to focus

Peter searched for an ERP system that could integrate all the HR, payroll, general ledger and purchasing functionality - and was configured for Australia's taxation system. He assessed half a dozen different systems before settling on MYOB Greentree to modernise the Florey's system and make it more user-friendly.

"We wanted a dependable system with a proven track record," he says. "We are trying to solve some of the greatest medical challenges of our time so we need a solid partner to provide the backbone." The Greentree Partner was "head and shoulders above the other vendors we dealt with," Peter says.

Implementing Greentree's eTimesheets mean the researchers and managers can now handle their administrative workflow quickly and efficiently, eliminating time-wasting paperwork. MYOB Greentree also delivers ample reporting power to handle the highly detailed financial statements required by the directors.

Purchasing, another area requiring accuracy, was also reformed. "We purchase a lot of highly regulated substances along with highly sophisticated medical research equipment," says Peter.

Previously the Florey's HR/Payroll system didn't allow remote access to those using the Apple computers preferred by the research scientists. As a result, Peter employed HR staff whose main task was to run around with pieces of paper for the scientists to fill in.

"It was a bad experience for the researchers," Peter says. "Forms would be misplaced or filled out incorrectly and our administration was further complicated by the elaborate variety of pay scales."

"We wanted a dependable system with a proven track record"

Outcome

A positive result

Today the institute runs more smoothly, with alignment and integration of different departments and required functionality. Many tasks have been automated, cumbersome paperwork minimised and costs have been reduced.

"I needed a system that can provide the best possible experience for our researchers," Peter concludes. "Greentree is reliable and easy to use so that the scientists can concentrate on keeping us at the forefront of brain research."

"Greentree is reliable and easy to use"

Before	After
+ Clunky and poor user experience	+ Increased ease of use
+ Fragmented systems	+ Unified processes and systems that talk to each other
+ Double handling and innacurate paperwork	+ Greater automation and speed