

Dr James Morton - MBBS, BSc (Med), MBBS, FRACP, FRCPA, AM Chairman and Founder, AEIOU Foundation for children with autism

Dr James Morton is a 51 year old Australian father of three; an accredited specialist in Haematology-Oncology, a Medical Director of [ICON Cancer Care](#) and a Senior Specialist in Leukaemia and Bone Marrow Transplant Services. Above all, he is a passionate advocate for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) and is the Chairman and Founder of the AEIOU Foundation for children with autism, a not-for-profit organisation.

After their second child Andrew was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder at the age of 2 in 2001, James and his wife Louise searched for suitable treatments for him. They discovered there is a critical period from about two and a half to six years of age where early intervention for children with autism can make a profound difference in their development in behaviour, communication, self-care and learning. They also found that in Australia at that time, it was almost impossible to access a suitable program.



Undeterred, the Mortons set out to create such a program and established the AEIOU Foundation for children with autism to provide effective early intervention treatment for children touched by autism. The first AEIOU Foundation centre opened in 2005 with 12 children and six autism-trained teachers and therapists in a converted church building purchased with the Morton's personal savings. Today, AEIOU is one of Australia's largest providers of high quality early intervention treatment to children with autism and has grown to nine centres in Queensland and South Australia. Each AEIOU centre is staffed with specialist early childhood teachers, speech pathologists, occupational therapists and behavioural therapists and a unique, manualised program developed by AEIOU to ensure children with autism reach their potential.

Dr Morton's received an MBBS from University of Queensland in 1987 (University Gold Medal). James completed specialist training in Clinical Haematology and Stem Cell Transplantation at the Royal Brisbane and Mater Hospitals (1992–1995). From 1996–1997 Dr Morton was the International Fellow at the prestigious Fred Hutchinson Cancer Centre, Seattle. His particular clinical interests include Leukaemia, Lymphoma, Multiple Myeloma, Stem Cell Transplantation, and Clinical Aphaeresis, and he is widely published in these fields.

James also created and initiated the World's Greatest Shave for a Cure Leukaemia Foundation in Australia. This event has raised over \$AUS100M and resulted in 250,000 people shaving their heads in support of Leukaemia over the last decade.

James changes people's lives – some days as a brilliant Haemato-Oncologist, some days as a philanthropist, and some days as an advocate for people with autism. In recognition of this, James was honoured to be awarded a Member of the Order of Australia in 2015; a decade after the inception of AEIOU Foundation.

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