

HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS

IMPACT REPORT FY26

HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS

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Acknowledgement of Country

Hospitals United for Sick Kids acknowledges First Australians and recognises their continuous connection to country, community and culture. We are committed to helping to close the gap to achieve equality in health and life expectancy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

KIDS IN HOSPITAL CAN FEEL LIGHTYEARS FROM HOME

HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS



1M

Over 1M kids are presented to hospitals each year.[1]

780,000

They spend over 780,000 nights in hospital.[1]

90%

90% of children feel homesick when they are in hospital.[2]

Children may be in hospital for a day, a week, or even months, and they may be there for many different reasons, but there is something all kids suffer from: homesickness, a feeling of displacement, the feeling of being a million light years from home.

Childhood illness, injury, and hospitalisation take children away from the things they know and love. Everyday moments like playing with family, enjoying outdoor activities with friends or even the comfort of their own bed are missed most with absences felt deeply during long hospital stays.



50%

Of the children in hospital will suffer from higher levels of homesickness that can impact their health and recovery.[2]

BIG DIFFERENCE TO LITTLE LIVES

KIDS SHOULD LEAD THE HAPPIEST, HEALTHIEST LIVES POSSIBLE.

At Hospitals United for Sick Kids, we are on a mission to reduce the impact that childhood illness, injury and hospitalisation can have on sick kids and their families. We raise funds to invest in projects, therapies, programs, clinical positions and cutting-edge equipment that help sick kids get home to the things they miss, like the familiarity and comforts of everyday life.

We are the only national alliance of children's hospitals and foundations, representing every state and territory in Australia.



HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS

1.3M sick kids helped

100 life-changing projects funded

30 hospitals in metro, regional and rural areas

8 state-based hospital partner networks supported

NATIONAL REACH LOCAL IMPACT



HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS

HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS IS FOR ALL KIDS, ALL DISEASES AND ALL INJURIES



VISION

Our vision is to raise enough funds to ensure every sick kid in Australia can receive the world-class treatment they need, whilst spending the least amount of time away from home.



MISSION

Our mission is to create and curate progressive fundraising partnerships and collaborations. We directly fund in-hospital, at home or near to home therapies, programs, and equipment to help sick kids get home to the things they miss.



PURPOSE

Our purpose is to significantly improve health outcomes for kids, drastically reduce family disruption caused by childhood hospitalisation, and substantially lower the impact on the healthcare system.

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OUR VALUES

We are committed to helping sick kids get back to the things they miss. Our values empower our mission and purpose.



We are courageous

- Learn through failure
- Be brave
- Be authentic
- Make informed decisions



We are innovative

- Embrace innovation
- Be flexible
- Be solutions oriented
- Be thought leaders



We are collaborative

- Create shared value
- Be partner focused
- Be team focused



We are accountable

- Deliver on commitments
- Be open to feedback
- Record and share impact

HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



CARRIE BARKER

CHAIR

As Chair of Hospitals United for Sick Kids, I am proud to introduce our FY26 Impact Report and reflect on a year that strengthened the purpose, reach and sustainability of our national alliance of children's hospitals.

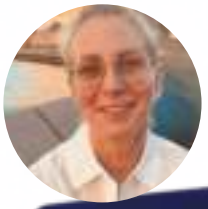
At the heart of our organisation is a simple belief: children should lead the happiest, healthiest lives possible, connected to home, family and the everyday moments that matter. Since our inception, together with our partners, we have helped over 1.3 million sick kids do exactly that. This milestone reflects the collective efforts of our hospital network partners, corporate partners and supporters across Australia.

FY26 has been a year of unprecedented growth for us, validating the strength of our product-for-purpose model. Our ability to connect national commercial partnerships with local healthcare expertise continued to support key initiatives that improve outcomes for children and families where they are needed most. Our success is built on collaboration, integrity, compassion and ambition. These values guide our decisions and underpin our commitment to creating meaningful and lasting change.

On behalf of the Board, I thank our hospital network partners, corporate and media partners and consumers for their ongoing support. I extend particular thanks to Coles, Lowes, Duracell and our many supplier partners, whose commitment continues to strengthen our impact. I also acknowledge my fellow Board Directors and the Hospitals United for Sick Kids team for their dedication throughout the year.

Together, we are building a national movement that helps sick kids get home to the things they miss. Thank you for being part of this shared mission.

MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER



ANN BILLINGTON

GM

FY26 was a landmark year for Hospitals United for Sick Kids, demonstrating the power of partnership, purpose and everyday giving. For a young national alliance, what has been achieved in such a short period is remarkable, and as a team, we could not be prouder of the impact we are creating together.

Our product-for-purpose model continues to provide Australians with simple ways to give back while funding initiatives that help sick kids receive the right care, in the right place, with less disruption to home and family life. By bringing together national brands, retailers, media partners and our hospital network partners, we are creating sustainable support for children and families across Australia. Since 2019, we have helped over 1.3 million sick kids through 100 projects, treatments, equipment and clinical positions funded.

This year, together with our partners, we raised more than $3.5 million nationally, representing 36% growth over FY25 and bringing total funds raised since 2019 to $15 million. Our reach expanded to more than 2,300 retail locations, connecting with 19 million Australians, while welcoming new brand and media partners to our growing alliance.

Most importantly, these results translated into local impact for children and families across every state and territory. Funding supported projects focused on improving the hospital experience, advancing treatment and bringing hospital-grade care closer to home. From the precision dosing of anticancer therapy program and virtual care to music therapy, therapy dogs and early detection initiatives, these investments are helping deliver better experiences and outcomes for sick kids. Our hospital network partners continued to play a vital role in directing funds to initiatives shaped by clinical expertise, research and community need, ensuring every dollar creates meaningful impact where it is needed most.

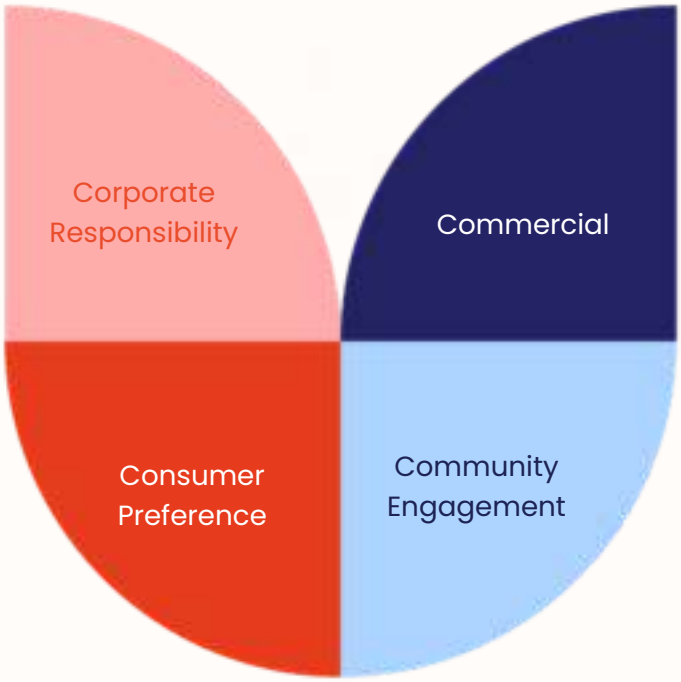
Our partnerships have been central to this success. Coles' first national register round-up campaign raised $1.1 million in just two weeks across 860 stores. With more than 180 products on shelf supporting the campaign, an extraordinary $2.39 million was raised in four weeks, making it our biggest campaign to date. Lowes raised more than $380,000 through its bucket hat campaign, while Duracell combined product-for-purpose fundraising with critical button battery safety awareness. Alongside them, our growing portfolio of global and local brand partners demonstrated the impact that can be achieved when purpose is embedded in everyday products and purchases.

FY26 was also a breakthrough year for awareness as Hospitals United for Sick Kids continued to grow amongst key audiences. Blip's recall increased exponentially to 62% among Gen Z and 34% among Millennials, establishing him as a powerful symbol of giving back for sick kids.

I sincerely thank our hospital network partners, our commercial partners, Coles, Lowes, Duracell, our brand partners and every Australian who supported us this year. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our media partners, Nine Network and Are Media, for putting their might behind our cause. Together, we are proving that when corporate purpose and community compassion come together, meaningful change for sick kids is possible at scale.

As we look ahead to FY27, we will continue to grow our partnerships, expand our reach and further strengthen Blip's role as the face of giving back. Our focus remains clear: helping more sick kids get home to the things they miss.

OUR VALUE EQUATION



FY26 validated our product-for-purpose model as a scalable platform for shared value. With more than $3.5 million raised, five new global brands, 2,300+ retail locations and 19 million Australians reached, the model has moved from promising to proven.

For partners, it delivers across the four Cs: meeting **consumer** demand for brands with purpose; supporting **commercial** growth through measurable social impact; deepening **community** connection through local reporting and family impact; and strengthening **corporate** responsibility through credible ESG action.

Its strength is its simplicity. Australians can give back through everyday purchases without adding pressure to household budgets, while partners create year-round connection to a cause that is visible, trusted and deeply felt.

By combining national reach with local impact, every product on shelf becomes a link between corporate purpose, consumer choice and better outcomes for sick kids. In FY26, that link became stronger, more measurable and more powerful.

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OUR INVESTMENT PILLARS

COMMITTED TO HELPING SICK KIDS GET HOME TO THE THINGS THEY MISS

Our investment priorities are built on three research-informed pillars: improving the in-hospital experience, advancing in-hospital treatment, and bringing hospital-grade care closer to home. Together, these priorities focus funding where it can help children and families cope better during treatment, shorten hospital stays where possible, and keep care connected to family and community life.

Make hospital feel like HOME

The prevalence of homesickness confirms that hospital care must address emotional, social, and psychological needs. Programs that focus on play, family presence, and familiar routines thus directly support better adjustment.



Reduce time spent away from HOME

Funding the improvement of protocols for better treatment, less invasive technologies, and staff training is helping to reduce the burden of childhood hospitalisation on sick kids and their families.



Bring hospital-grade care at or closer to HOME

Separation from home is a major contributor to distress. Enabling care at home or closer to home reduces separation and supports adjustment.



IMPACT JOURNEY

$15M

RAISED

1.3M

SICK KIDS HELPED

100

PROJECTS FUNDED

2019-2026

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IMPACT METRICS FY26

THE POWER OF THE COLLECTIVE

$3.5M RAISED

12 PROJECTS FUNDED

8 HOSPITAL PARTNER NETWORKS SUPPORTED










THE COMMON GOOD

Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation

Perth Children's Hospital Foundation

CANBERRA HOSPITALS FOUNDATION

Monash Children's Hospital

Women's & Children's Hospital Foundation

ROYAL HOBART HOSPITAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

John Hunter Children's Hospital

Our FY26 impact reflects the power of our collective and a shared commitment to lasting change. These metrics highlight the difference we are making together in local communities across Australia. Together, we're building stronger communities and creating measurable change that lasts.

HELP KIDS IN HOSPITAL GET BACK TO BIKE RIDES AT THE LAKE



HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS

Proudly supporting CANBERRA HOSPITALS FOUNDATION

HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS

Proudly supporting in

ACT

CANBERRA HOSPITALS FOUNDATION

Hospitals United for Sick Kids:
Australian Capital Territory

Alliance partner:
Canberra Hospitals Foundation

Hospital supported:
Centenary Hospital for Women and Children

About Canberra Hospitals Foundation

The Canberra Hospitals Foundation is the only organisation that exists to raise funds for the health and support services delivered in all public hospitals and health centres in Canberra. Each year, they touch the lives of 33,000 babies and children who access the paediatric clinic.



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CANBERRA HOSPITALS FOUNDATION

DELTA THERAPY DOGS: COMFORT, CALM AND CONNECTION

PILLAR #1 : MAKE THE HOSPITAL FEEL LIKE HOME

Funds raised through the 2026 Hospitals United for Sick Kids campaigns across the ACT enabled Canberra Hospitals Foundation to support a further two years of the Delta Therapy Dogs Program. The investment extends fortnightly therapy-dog visits for paediatric inpatients and outpatients, with an extended focus for children and young adults experiencing mental health challenges, long admissions, anxiety and distress.

Hospital can be an unfamiliar and confronting place for a child. Clinical smells, uniforms, masks, needles, alarms, and uncertainty can heighten anxious moments. For some children, this presents as 'white coat' anxiety: a strong stress response to clinicians or medical environments.

For others - particularly those living with a mental health condition, neurodivergence, previous medical trauma or a long admission - distress can lead to withdrawal, agitation or difficulty engaging with care.

Delta Therapy Dogs Program introduced a trained dog-and-handler team - Kathy and Winnie - to the paediatric service at Canberra Hospital. Through calm, supervised interaction, Winnie provides a familiar, non-clinical point of connection. A child can pat Winnie, practice a task, walk alongside her or simply sit quietly nearby.

How can a dog change the clinical moment?

A therapy dog does not remove the reason a child is in hospital. It can, however, change how that moment feels - and that can change what becomes possible next.

For patients
Comfort and positive distraction; reduced anxiety and perceived pain; support to self-soothe; renewed motivation to move, communicate or participate; and a more positive memory of their hospital experience and healthcare.

For families
A visible softening of distress, a shared moment of normality and relief, and greater confidence that their child is emotionally supported as well as clinically cared for.

For staff
A calmer pathway into rapport, assessment or treatment; another way to engage withdrawn or distressed patients; and moments of connection that can lift morale in emotionally demanding settings.

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DELTA THERAPY DOGS

IMPACT

With the new service only recently commencing at Canberra Hospital, no measurable impact is available as yet. In time, patient, family and staff feedback may be obtained, along with anecdotal evidence in the form of pre and post visit observations or validated anxiety/distress scores, where appropriate.



Through Hospitals United for Sick Kids, community support has helped fund therapy dog visits in hospital settings, sustaining an evidence-informed program that brings comfort, connection and reassurance to children, young people, families and staff.

- For children and young people, therapy dogs can reduce fear, encourage calm and support engagement with care.
- For families, these moments can provide welcome relief during difficult hospital experiences.
- For clinical teams, the program offers a compassionate way to support emotional wellbeing alongside treatment.

This support helps ensure that, when hospital feels frightening or overwhelming, a gentle presence can help young patients take the next step.

Because sometimes the first step towards treatment is simply feeling safe.

Watch video of Kathy and Winnie at work here.

HELP KIDS IN HOSPITAL GET BACK TO FRIDAY ARVO ICECREAMS



HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS

Proud to support

John Hunter Children's Hospital

HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS

Proudly supporting in

NSW

New England Region

John Hunter Children's Hospital

Hospitals United for Sick Kids:
Newcastle / Hunter and New England Region

Alliance partner:
John Hunter Children's Hospital

Hospitals supported:
John Hunter Children's Hospital

About John Hunter Children's Hospital

John Hunter Children's Hospital (JHCH) is a specialised tertiary referral paediatric hospital in Newcastle, providing complex medical, surgical, major trauma and neonatal care services for Northern NSW. The Children's Hospital in Newcastle, one of three children's hospitals in NSW, will, over the course of a year, see almost 25,000 children and young people present to the emergency department, admit over 10,000 children and young people to hospital and perform over 100,000 occasions of service through outpatient clinics.



Reach and Impact

The Children, Young People and Families service (CYPF) integrates a range of health care supporting sick kids and their families at hospitals across the region including, John Hunter Children's Hospital, Manning, Maitland, Cessnock, Kurri Kurri, Muswellbrook, Scone and Singleton as well as a wide range of community-based services including mental health. Every year, CYPF cares for over 920,370 children and families, including 52,990 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families across 8 hospitals.

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NSW

New England Region

John Hunter Children's Hospital

REGIONAL AND RURAL VIRTUAL ACUTE REVIEW SERVICE

PILLAR # 3: BRINGING HOSPITAL-GRADE CARE AT HOME OR CLOSER TO HOME

Children in regional and rural Hunter New England communities often have no access to local paediatricians and must travel long distances, sometimes several hours to receive specialist review. This results in delayed care, unnecessary transfers to tertiary facilities, and increased cost, time, and stress for families.

Rural clinicians frequently manage acutely unwell children without timely access to paediatric expertise, leading to clinical isolation and higher risk. The current service has successfully improved access to general paediatric advice but does not yet provide a structured acute review follow-up pathway for urgent cases.

The Regional and Rural Virtual Acute Review Service provides virtual acute paediatric care for children and young people aged 0–18 in regional, rural and remote communities where access to specialist paediatric services is limited. The service connects families and local clinicians with specialist nursing and paediatric medical advice, assessment and treatment planning, helping children receive high-quality care closer to home or within their local health facility.

Delivering hospital-grade care at home

- Deliver timely acute paediatric assessment and management for children in regional, rural and remote communities.
- Provide local clinicians with direct access to specialist paediatric advice to support real-time decision-making and collaborative care.
- Use emerging technologies, including remote monitoring devices, to strengthen virtual assessments and care delivery.
- Reduce unnecessary transfers to tertiary facilities by supporting safe local management where clinically appropriate.
- Improve equity of access so rural children can receive the same standard of acute and follow-up care as metropolitan children.

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New England Region

John Hunter Children's Hospital

VIRTUAL ACUTE REVIEW SERVICE

IMPACT



The service is designed to improve access to specialist paediatric care regardless of location, reduce avoidable hospital transfers, and support better outcomes for children and families.

Current work is focused on strengthening awareness and referral pathways across Hunter New England, engaging regional clinicians and services, building local capability, and developing family resources that improve health literacy and confidence in managing acute childhood illnesses.

The project is also trialling remote monitoring technologies to enhance assessments and support more effective care in regional settings allowing kids to receive hospital-grade care at home, keeping families together.

The regional and rural virtual acute review service is focusing on supporting families. It aims to build local capability in the area and ensure hospital-grade is always available at or closer to home.

HELP KIDS IN HOSPITAL GET BACK TO NIPPERS AND NETBALL



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Proud to support

Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation

SCHF

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Proudly supporting in

NSW

Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation

Hospitals United for Sick Kids:
New South Wales

Alliance partner:
Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation

Hospitals supported:
The Children's Hospital at Westmead and Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick

About Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation

Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation (SCHF) is one of Australia's largest and most trusted kids' health charities - and one of the largest hospital foundations in the world. As the exclusive fundraising partner of the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network, we support a comprehensive network of care that includes: Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick, The Children's Hospital at Westmead, Bear Cottage , Newborn and paediatric Emergency Transport Service (NETS) and Kids Research.

Whether it's funding new equipment, specialist training, ground-breaking research or building state-of-the-art facilities, the money raised through SCHF is changing the future for sick kids.



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Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation

PRECISION DOSING OF ANTICANCER THERAPY PROGRAM

PILLAR # 2: REDUCE TIME SPENT AWAY FROM HOME

Every child is different. Every child's body responds differently to cancer treatment. Yet for many years, chemotherapy doses have been based on standard formulas that do not always consider how each child's body absorbs and processes medicine. This can mean some children experience more side effects than necessary, while others may not receive the most effective dose for their individual needs.

For the second year in a row, funds raised in NSW through Hospitals United for Sick Kids have supported the Precision Dosing of Anticancer Therapy Program. Children receiving treatment at The Children's Hospital at Westmead are benefiting from this project as they receive a more personalised approach through the expansion of the Pharmacokinetics Laboratory.

The aim of precision dosing is to personalise the dose of chemotherapy to a particular child's body and type of cancer - to give them enough chemotherapy to cure their cancer, but not too much that causes significant toxicity and side effects. By understanding how each child's body responds to important medicines, clinicians can better tailor treatment and help deliver the right medicine at the right dose for each individual child.

For families, the impact of this work extends far beyond the hospital walls.

When treatment is better matched to a child's individual needs -

- It can reduce the challenges families face during an already incredibly difficult time.
- It can mean fewer side effects.
- Fewer hospital stays and more opportunities for children to spend time with the people and activities they love.

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Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation

PRECISION DOSING OF ANTICANCER THERAPY PROGRAM

IMPACT

This year has marked several important achievements for the program.

Advanced drug testing technology has been established at The Children's Hospital at Westmead, strengthening the team's ability to provide personalised treatment for children receiving cancer, blood and cellular therapies. The service has also achieved national accreditation for its specialised treosulfan testing, helping ensure children undergoing blood and bone marrow transplantation receive safe, accurate and high-quality care.



Team Growth

The appointment of Dr Jacinta Houng is strengthening the team's research capability, while a new research study is expanding understanding of how children process anti-cancer medicines. This research will help clinicians continue improving personalised treatments for children today and into the future.

For children and families, Precision Dosing of Anticancer Therapy Program can mean fewer complications, less time in hospital and more precious moments together at home.

HELP KIDS IN HOSPITAL GET BACK TO STORIES WITH NAN



HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS | Women's & Children's Hospital Foundation

HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS

Proudly supporting in

SA

Women's & Children's Hospital Foundation

Hospitals United for Sick Kids:
South Australia & Northern Territory

Alliance partner:
Women's and Children's Hospital Foundation

Hospital supported:
Women's and Children's Hospital, Adelaide

About the Women's & Children's Hospital Foundation

WCH Foundation is based in South Australia. In partnership with the Women's and Children's Health Network (WCHN), the WCH Foundation ensures that children and their families have access to the best medical care, facilities and support programs at a time when they need it the most. The Women's and Children's Hospital (WCH) is SA's largest specialist facility for women's and children's health, also serving families from the Northern Territory and cross-border communities.



HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS

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Women's & Children's Hospital Foundation

MUSIC THERAPY PROGRAM

PILLAR # 1: MAKE THE HOSPITAL FEEL LIKE HOME

Music therapy is an evidence-based allied health intervention that provides a safe and cost-effective service to promote wellbeing, recovery and quality of life in hospitalised children across the paediatric age spectrum. It involves the use of music-based experiences to help children and their families better cope with their hospital journey.



With the support of Hospitals United for Sick Kids, the Women's & Children's Hospital Foundation funded two Music Therapists, enabling babies, children, young people, and families to access specialist music therapy across a broad range of hospital settings.

Through individual and group-based interventions, music therapy provided emotional support, enhanced wellbeing, strengthened family connections, and created meaningful opportunities for self-expression during some of the most challenging periods of a family's healthcare journey.

At its core, music therapy ensures that babies, children, and young people have access to a creative and non-verbal avenue for communication, expression, and connection. Through the Foundation's support, music therapy helped patients and families feel heard, understood, and supported, while enhancing wellbeing and strengthening family connections at every stage of their healthcare journey.

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Women's & Children's Hospital Foundation

MUSIC THERAPY PROGRAM

IMPACT

Music Therapy has been shown to help inpatients:



- Improve emotional wellbeing.
- Improve recovery rate
- Reduce anxiety and stress-related to a hospital visit
- Reduce length of stay in hospital, re-admissions and re-presentations.
- Support neurological development

Music therapy can help reduce stress, manage pain, and offer an outlet for self-expression in a creative non-threatening manner. It offers a comforting distraction during treatment, provides opportunities for choice and control, and supports the child's emotional and psychological wellbeing, enhancing their ability to cope with the challenges of their illness and treatment.

In the year gone by, over 130 music therapy sessions for children and families have been supported, reducing stress and anxiety and making the hospital feel like home.

Watch music create moments of connection here for the very special Spencer Barton (2018- 2023)

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Women's & Children's Hospital Foundation

FAMILY SUPPORT FOR NT PATIENTS

PILLAR # 3: BRINGING hospital-grade CARE AT HOME OR CLOSER TO HOME

With the support of Hospital's United for Sick Kids, in FY26, we provided direct financial assistance to families from the Northern Territory, helping to reduce the practical and financial challenges associated with a child's hospitalisation. Support primarily covered transport expenses, including flights, bus travel, and fuel costs, enabling families to remain together during treatment and return home following discharge. This assistance was particularly important for second parents and siblings, as the government-funded Patient Assistance Travel Scheme generally covers only one escort. By bridging this gap, we helped ensure children could maintain vital family connections throughout their care journey.



In addition, we supported the Social Work and Aboriginal Liaison Unit teams by providing grocery vouchers, meal vouchers, taxi fares, and bus tickets.

This program assisted families who were away from home, helping with daily living costs and transport between accommodation and the hospital, reducing financial stress and enabling families to focus on their child's treatment and recovery.

Watch Tony Tongerie talk about the Family Support Program here

HELP KIDS IN HOSPITAL



GET BACK TO FOOTY WITH MATES

HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS

Proud to support

THE COMMON GOOD

HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS

Proudly supporting in

QLD

THE COMMON GOOD

Hospitals United for Sick Kids:
Queensland

Alliance partner:
The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation through its community and fundraising initiative, The Common Good

Hospitals supported:
The Prince Charles Hospital, Caboolture Hospital, and other regional Queensland hospitals.

About The Common Good

Based in Queensland, The Common Good is an initiative of The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation. Through the Hospitals United for Sick Kids alliance, the Foundation facilitates assistance for sick and injured children by funding patient care initiatives and projects, as well as research and equipment at The Prince Charles Hospital and Caboolture Hospital. It also distributes funding to help kids at nine additional Foundations across Queensland, including Toowoomba Hospital Foundation, Gold Coast Hospital Foundation, Ipswich Hospital Foundation, Wishlist (Sunshine Coast Health Foundation), Brighter Lives (Townsville Hospital and Health Service) and the Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation.



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THE COMMON GOOD

AN INITIATIVE OF THE PRINCE CHARLES HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

CHILD LIFE THERAPY PROGRAM

PILLAR # 1: MAKE THE HOSPITAL FEEL LIKE HOME

In July 2025, Caboolture Hospital's first-ever Child Life Therapist started to help with the care of the hospital's youngest sick and injured patients. This role involves medical play, positive distraction, coping strategies and trauma-informed care, to help children feel safe and in control during treatment. It has been described by hospital staff as having a deeply felt, positive impact for not only patients and families, but medical staff alike.



Lucy helps children across the Paediatric Ward, Paediatric Emergency Department, and Specialist Outpatient Clinics, working in conjunction with medical teams to prepare children, ease distress, and improve coping during procedures.

Purpose and Benefits

The Child Life Therapy program at Caboolture Hospital will be instrumental in:

- Reducing Stress and Anxiety: Children and their families will experience reduced stress during hospital visits, improving the likelihood of cooperation and reducing procedure-related complications.
- Improving Health Outcomes: By fostering a calm and cooperative environment, the CLT service can reduce the need for sedatives, shorten recovery times, and lower re-admission rates.
- Supporting Long-Term Well-being: Children will develop positive coping strategies in response to medical care, setting a foundation for better mental health and resilience.
- Enhancing Family Engagement: The program actively involves families, creating a collaborative care environment that fosters stronger relationships with healthcare providers.

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THE COMMON GOOD

AN INITIATIVE OF THE PRINCE CHARLES HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

CHILD LIFE THERAPY PROJECT

IMPACT

The Child Life Therapist says her goal is to make the experience a little easier and more comfortable for patients and their carers, and sometimes it's the small things that can have a big impact.



- During the 24/25 financial year, there were over 12,500 paediatric Emergency Department presentations, with an average length of stay of nearly four hours and the average age of children at the time of presentation being 7.5 years.
- For the paediatric ward, over 3,500 children were admitted with an average length of stay between two to three days. The average age of patients at the time of discharge was 1.51 years.
- 1,500 patients have been seen since service commencement in July 2025

This position was made possible following the success of a pilot program supported by The Common Good at The Prince Charles Hospital in 2022 which is now a permanent service. **"We were proud to fund the very first Child Life Therapist at The Prince Charles Hospital, and we're equally proud to extend support of that role into Caboolture Hospital**," said CEO of The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation, Steve Francia.

"When a child is anxious, the whole family feels it. My role is to support both parents and children," she says, adding, "Sometimes it's as simple as using a doll to show what will happen or slowing down and giving a child time to breathe, " says Lucy.

Watch Lucy talk about Child life therapy here

HELP KIDS IN HOSPITAL GET BACK TO FAMILY BUSH WALKS



HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS

ROYAL HOBART HOSPITAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS

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TAS

ROYAL HOBART HOSPITAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

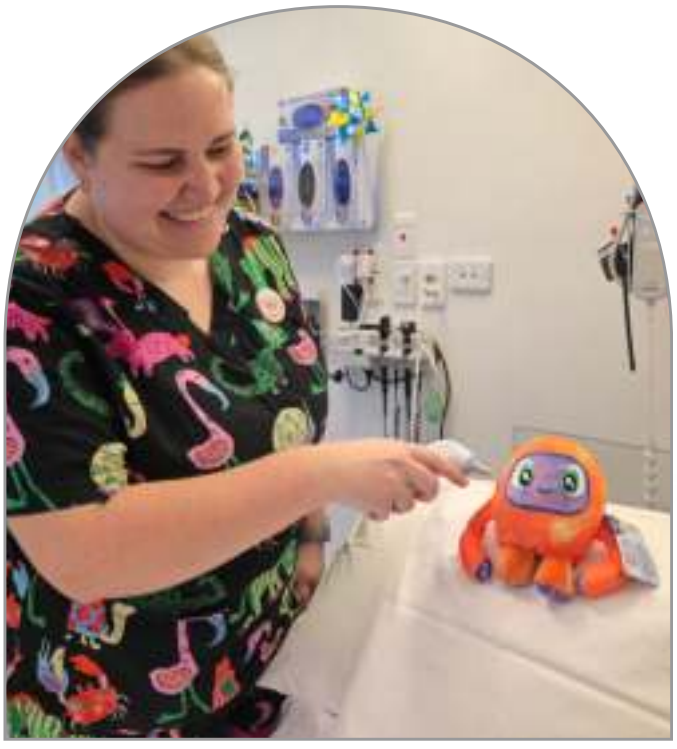
Hospitals United for Sick Kids:
Tasmania

Alliance partner:
Royal Hobart Hospital Research Foundation

Hospital supported:
Royal Hobart Hospital

About the Royal Hobart Hospital Research Foundation

The Royal Hobart Hospital Research Foundation is our Alliance Partner based in Tasmania. The hospital sees 16,000 children each year. Since 2019, we have worked together to raise funds for investing in discoveries for better child health and outcomes.



HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS

Proudly supporting in

TAS

ROYAL HOBART HOSPITAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

CAST AWAY TAS

PILLAR # 2: REDUCE TIME SPENT AWAY FROM HOME

Evaluating Wrist Splints as an Alternative to Plaster Casts for Children's Forearm Fractures is a pilot trial investigating whether removable wrist splints can safely and effectively replace traditional plaster casts for children with stable distal forearm fractures.



Forearm fractures are among the most common childhood injuries and currently require treatment with plaster casts, often leading to follow-up appointments, repeat imaging, inconvenience for families, and increased healthcare costs. This project will compare wrist splints and plaster casts to assess safety, effectiveness, patient comfort, satisfaction, and economic outcomes.

Traditionally most of these breaks are treated with a plaster cast, which works well but can cause pressure sores. Plaster casts also need to be replaced if they get damaged or wet and need children to attend outpatients to get them removed.

With this project, clinicians are currently looking at a new treatment option for children that present to the hospital's emergency department with simple fractures - using prefabricated wrist splints, as they can be applied and removed far more easily.

The clinicians are studying a group of children between 4 and 15 who present with specific kinds of forearm fractures and test the use of the prefabricated wrist splints. While the project is in the early stages, they will ultimately look at using the data from this study to progress this to clinical trials, where they will partner with paediatric emergency medicine centres across the country.

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CAST AWAY TAS

IMPACT

Cast Away Tas has the potential to significantly improve the experience of care for children with common forearm fractures. By reducing reliance on plaster casts, the project could help children recover more comfortably, maintain better hygiene, and return to normal activities sooner. Families may benefit from fewer hospital visits, reduced travel and time away from school and work, and a more convenient treatment experience.



If wrist splints are proven to be a viable alternative for certain types of forearm fractures, we could see better recovery experiences for children, with fewer complications, reduced school absences, and less disruption for families.

At the same time, this approach could help ease pressure on emergency departments, fracture clinics, and specialist orthopaedic services by reducing the need for follow-up appointments and repeat imaging.

For the healthcare system, wider use of wrist splints could lower treatment costs and free up valuable clinical resources for more complex cases. Beyond these immediate benefits, the project will establish the evidence base required for a larger national trial and position Tasmania as a leader in paediatric orthopaedic research.

Ultimately, the findings could influence clinical practice across Australia and internationally, improving outcomes for children while delivering more efficient and cost-effective healthcare.

Watch Stephanie Furler, CEO RHHRF, talk about Cast Away here

HELP KIDS IN HOSPITAL GET BACK TO TREATS AT THE MARKET



HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS

Proud to support Monash Children's Hospital

HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS

Proudly supporting in

VIC

Monash Children's Hospital

Hospitals United for Sick Kids:
Victoria

Alliance partner:
Monash Health Foundation

Hospital supported:
Monash Children's Hospital

About The Monash Health Foundation

The Monash Health Foundation is the fundraising arm of Monash Health, nurturing and encouraging philanthropic support to fund a range of programs and initiatives to advance world-class healthcare. They work with individuals, businesses, community groups, and trusts and foundations to enhance care for our community across all stages of life.

Giving to the Monash Health Foundation enables them to invest in research and innovation, improve quality of life, support patients and families when they need it most, and deliver world-class care.

About Monash Children's Hospital

Monash Children's Hospital is a major tertiary, teaching and research paediatric hospital, co-located with Monash Medical Centre. The hospital cares for more than 100,000 children every year and provides paediatric services across 3 hospitals, including emergency and inpatient services at Casey and Dandenong Hospitals. Monash Children's Hospital at Home treats a range of conditions and cares for neonates and children from birth to 18 years in their own homes. Their paediatric care extends across their community services, including the Murrumbek Casey Early Parenting Centre.



HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS

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Monash Children's Hospital

CARE AT HOME

PILLAR #3: BRING HOSPITAL-GRADE CARE AT HOME OR CLOSE TO HOME

Through the generous support from Hospitals United for Sick Kids, four projects dedicated to helping sick kids get home sooner, were funded at the Monash Children's Hospital.

Project 1: Growing Strong at Home: Enhancing paediatric care, recovery and wellbeing at home

Monash Children's Hospital at Home expanded access to specialist weighing equipment that enables accurate monitoring and treatment of children in their own homes. Funding supported the purchase of baby scales, standing scales and blind weight scales, allowing clinicians to safely monitor growth, nutrition, medication dosing and treatment response across a diverse paediatric population. The initiative improves access to care closer to home, reduces the need for hospital visits, and supports family-centred care for infants, children and adolescents, including those receiving treatment for eating disorders.





Project 2: Care beyond the hospital: Delivering neonatal phototherapy via Hospital in the Home

Home Phototherapy is an innovative model of care that safely delivers hospital-grade treatment for neonatal jaundice in the family home. Using BiliCocoon fibre optic phototherapy technology, supported by daily nursing reviews, bilirubin monitoring, and 24/7 clinical support, these babies can receive the same treatment they would receive in hospital without prolonged admission.

The program helps these newborn babies, spend more time with their families, supporting family bonding and breastfeeding. For caregivers, having their baby home sooner can reduce stress and also relieve the associated costs of hospitalisation, such as getting to and from hospital.

By providing the right supports to get these babies home, it means that there are more cots available in hospital for infants requiring additional specialised care.

HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS

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Monash Children's Hospital

PILLAR #3: BRING hospital-grade CARE AT HOME OR CLOSE TO HOME

Project 3: Paediatric Hospital in the Home Vehicle Enhancement Initiative

Through the support of Hospitals United for Sick Kids, Monash Children's Hospital's - Hospital in the Home (HITH) has strengthened its ability to deliver hospital-grade care where children want to be most: at home.

Funding for additional portable equipment enables clinicians to safely manage a wide range of conditions outside the hospital setting, supporting earlier discharge, and improving the experience for children and families.

Each vehicle is now equipped with a suite of equipment including weight scales, blood pressure monitors, Flocare Infinity feeding pumps, and more. These resources enable clinicians to deliver safe, efficient and contemporary care in the home, reducing the need for hospital attendance while ensuring children receive the right care in the right place so more children can spend less time in hospital and more time at home.



·Blue bag holds new baby scales
Grey bag is the Blind weight standing scales that can be used for the Adolescent Eating disorder support
Red bag is for all the Hospital In the Home consumables and equipment that may be needed on the road or during visits
Black box is the organiser that holds non sterile equipment EG gloves, Covershoes etc

Project 4: Develop a suite of videos to support families and staff within the Tracheostomy and Respiratory Services program

A tracheostomy tube can only be managed by trained carers - these videos will be invaluable for both everyday skills and how to manage a potential emergency. Funding has enabled the development of a suite of six educational videos on different skills required for management of a tracheostomy.

Each video lasts for approximately 3 minutes which allows caregivers to absorb bite-size pieces of information relevant to their exact need. This suite of videos provide a resource readily available, to both staff and families helping them to experience greater confidence, consistency, and readiness when caring for a child with a tracheostomy.

HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS

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Monash Children's Hospital

IMPACT TESTIMONIALS

Chemotherapy in the Home

A comprehensive nursing education and training program has been rolled out to support Hospital in the Home nurses expand the administering of intravenous chemotherapy safely in the home, completed in August 2026.

This initiative allows some of our most vulnerable patients to remain at home with their families, reducing disruption and improving quality of life.



Neonatal Phototherapy via Hospital in the Home

Neonatal jaundice affects around 60% of full-term babies and is one of the most common reasons newborns return to hospital after birth. Home Phototherapy enables eligible babies to receive hospital-level treatment safely at home, reducing the length of hospital admission while maintaining the same clinical oversight and safety standards.

Thanks to the generous support of Hospitals United for Sick Kids and their partners, many babies have been able to receive care at home that they otherwise would have needed to remain in hospital for.



IMPACT TESTIMONIALS

Neonatal Phototherapy at home testimonial (Parent)

"We were absolutely thrilled to learn that our baby could continue receiving care at home. Whilst in hospital we felt well supported by the hospital team, there were times when I felt quite isolated. Being away from my husband and daughter for extended periods was difficult, and the days often felt very long.

Knowing we could continue receiving the same observation, support, and monitoring in our own home was very exciting. Time seemed to move very slowly in hospital, whereas once we got home, life became busy and the days passed much more quickly.

Being at home allowed us to enjoy the simple things that make family life special. We could spend quality time together in our own environment, establish our routine, and enjoy having family and friends visit us without the restrictions that come with being in hospital.

Being at home made a huge difference, enabling my husband to play a much more active role in caring for our baby. Together we were able to establish a family routine while still receiving ongoing support from the hospital team. It also reduced additional expenses such as daily parking costs.

We are incredibly grateful. Having our baby at home while continuing to receive the care and monitoring they needed has been wonderful. It has allowed us to bond as a family during such an important time, and we truly appreciate the generosity that made this possible.

Having access to essential equipment in the home environment meant we could continue receiving care safely without remaining in hospital. It has been more convenient, less costly, and has allowed us to focus on caring for ourselves and our baby, enjoying time together, and settling into family life much sooner."

HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS

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IMPACT TESTIMONIALS

Develop a suite of videos to support families and staff within the Tracheostomy and Respiratory Services program testimonial (Clinician, Sandy Foster, Paediatric Tracheostomy and Respiratory Services CNC)

"The Paediatric Tracheostomy and Respiratory Services CNC role was established 14 months ago within the Respiratory Department. In this role I coordinate the care of all children with a tracheostomy, providing education to families and staff, and sharing specialist knowledge to support this vulnerable group. My work focuses on reducing staff fear, increasing confidence, and ensuring consistent, safe care.

In addition to tracheostomy coordination, I manage home oxygen planning for infants and children discharged with oxygen needs.

We have recently established our own tracheostomy ventilation program—previously, these children needed to be transferred to another health service, meaning they were even further from home and their family."

This resource is expected to enhance the safety and quality of care for tracheostomy patients by building a more informed, confident clinical team and empowering families as true partners in their child's care.

For parents and carers, it offers the chance to learn and revisit skills in their own time, reinforcing bedside teaching, easing anxiety during a stressful learning period, and supporting reliable skill retention after discharge.

For staff, it provides a way to refresh specific skills at any time, particularly valuable given the long intervals between tracheostomy admissions, while reducing variability in practice and strengthening confidence, safety, and support for families.

Ultimately, it creates a sustainable, easily accessible training resource that will keep benefiting new staff and families for years to come.

HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS

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PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

Project 1: Parent Comfort Chairs for the paediatric Emergency Department

When a child is unwell, the comfort and presence of a parent can provide reassurance during what is often a frightening and uncertain time. This project will equip every paediatric Emergency Department cubicle with recliner chairs, enabling parents to remain comfortably at their child's bedside throughout prolonged stays.

By supporting carers to rest and recover, children benefit from having a familiar, calm and engaged support person close by. The initiative strengthens family-centred care, reduces stress for children and families, and creates a more supportive and healing environment during their hospital journey.

Project 2: Establish a dedicated paediatric Immunisation Drop-In Clinic and Service at MCH

Establish a dedicated co-located Paediatric Immunisation service within Monash Children's Hospital to address known barriers to timely vaccine access and improve uptake among children.

This initiative will markedly improve patient and care experience by removing barriers to timely, accessible and supportive immunisation care.

Project 3: Paediatric Cardiology - Kit of Hearts Early Partner Program

The Kit of Hearts Early Partner Program provides families and clinicians with personalised 3D heart models that make complex cardiac conditions easier to understand. By transforming medical information into a clear, visual format, the program helps families feel informed and empowered, supports effective communication between clinicians and caregivers, and enables more confident decision-making about treatment and care.

Kit of Hearts brings clarity to complex diagnoses, helping families navigate their child's healthcare journey with confidence.

HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS

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Monash Children's Hospital

Project 4: Paediatric Allergy, Multidisciplinary Food Ladder Clinic for Infants with Egg and Cow's Milk Allergies

Establish a multidisciplinary Food Ladder Clinic to safely support the introduction of egg and cow's milk in infants with food allergies, with the aim of improving quality of life and reducing dietary restrictions.

Food allergies affect approximately 10% of infants in Melbourne, with egg, cow's milk and peanut allergies contributing significantly to this burden. Standard management often involves strict avoidance of the allergen. However, ongoing vigilance, dietary restrictions and uncertainty regarding the potential development of tolerance can cause considerable psychological distress and negatively impact quality of life for both patients and their families.

The clinic will:

1. Increase dietary diversity and reduce unnecessary dietary restrictions.
2. Improve quality of life for children and families.
3. Reduce the burden associated with managing food allergies.
4. Provide coordinated access to a multidisciplinary team, enhancing the patient and family experience, reducing the number of appointments required, and minimising repeated allergy testing.

HELP KIDS IN HOSPITAL



GET BACK TO SANDCASTLES IN THE SUN

HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS

Perth Children's Hospital **Foundation**

HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS

Proudly supporting in

WA

Perth Children's Hospital Foundation

Hospitals United for Sick Kids:
Western Australia

Alliance partner:
Perth Children's Hospital Foundation

Hospital supported:
Perth Children's Hospital

About Perth Children's Hospital Foundation

PCHF is the specialist children's healthcare charity at Perth Children's Hospital (PCH), WA's only dedicated kids' hospital. By working closely with those on the frontline, the Foundation has an in-depth understanding of what clinicians, researchers and families need to ensure they make a tangible impact where it counts most. Money raised from our partnership goes towards helping WA kids in hospital get back home sooner, by investing in vital funding needs from ground-breaking research to world-class expertise, advanced equipment and technology to positive patient experiences.



HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS

Proudly supporting in

WA

Perth Children's Hospital Foundation

CONNECT-CP PROGRAM

PILLAR # 3: BRINGING hospital-grade CARE AT HOME OR CLOSER TO HOME

Children with Cerebral Palsy (CP) in regional and remote Western Australia are often diagnosed much later than children in metropolitan areas, meaning they can miss the critical early window for intervention. Distance, limited access to specialist services, workforce capacity and challenges sharing assessment information all contribute to delays.

For families, this can mean more stress, uncertainty and travel.

For children, it can lead to poorer health, developmental and quality of life outcomes.



Early detection and support can make a huge difference to the lives of children with CP, the most common cause of childhood physical disability resulting from damage to the developing brain during pregnancy or soon after birth. It improves physical and cognitive function of the child, enhances quality of life and protects the mental health of parents.

The project, CONNECT-CP, will build on successful pilot work in the Kimberley, rolling out early assessment pathways across metropolitan and regional WA. The program will use specialist training, culturally safe local services and digital tools such as remote video-based General Movements Assessments to help babies be screened and referred earlier, no matter where they live. By improving access to early diagnosis and intervention, CONNECT-CP aims to reduce disability severity, improve quality of life, strengthen family wellbeing and create a more equitable system of care for children with CP across WA.

HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS

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WA

Perth Children's Hospital Foundation

CONNECT-CP PROGRAM



IMPACT

Project outcomes include

- More than 250 children each year are expected to benef from earlier assessment and intervention across WA. 80 regional children are projected to access specialist pathways closer to home each year.
- More than 100 clinicians have participated in the specialist CONNECT-CP training, improving confidence in recognising the earliest signs of cerebral palsy.
- Regional outreach and scholarships are increasing specialist knowledge across Western Australia. Partnerships across the Kimberley, Pilbara and Great Southern are improving access to earlier diagnosis and reducing the need for families to travel.
- Parents and carers are helping shape future services through the CONNECT-CP Consumer Reference Group.
- Digital health solutions are being developed to enable faster assessment, referral and specialist review across the state.

CONNECT-CP is helping reshape the future of children's rehabilitation in Western Australia. Children can be diagnosed earlier, begin therapy sooner and access better coordinated care, regardless of where they live. Families are experiencing clearer referral pathways, reduced uncertainty and earlier access to the support they need.

"Overall, early diagnosis and therapy can change the trajectory of a child's life, leading to better developmental outcomes, more confident families and stronger, more connected care across the community," says Dr Nofar Ben Itzhak, CONNECT-CP Senior Research Fellow

Watch Ali's story here

HELPING OUR LITTLEST LOCALS GET HOME TO THE THINGS THEY MISS






IMPACT STORIES

EIRENE'S STORY

We all know that feeling when you walk into the hospital emergency department. The uncertainty, the unfamiliar environment, and the worry about how your child will be cared for.



For Eirene and her family, that fear was very real when they rushed in with suspected appendicitis to the Royal Hobart Hospital in Tasmania.

But amidst the pain and the worry, something amazing happened. The staff didn't just treat Eirene's symptoms; they treated her fear. They replaced anxiety with warmth.

As her mum Erica recalls, "I knew she was in safe hands which meant I could relax too."

But as wonderful as the nurses were (providing lunch and a much-needed cuppa!), Eirene's mum put it best "There's no place like home, with all our creature comforts around us. Home to us is wherever our family is, so to be reunited with them is 'home'."

Every child deserves to be back in their own space, surrounded by the people they love and even with the best care in the world, a hospital ward isn't a home.

From the ER to the comfort of home - Eirene's story is a reminder that while medical treatment saves lives, being home can heal spirits.

ALI'S STORY



Perth Children's Hospital's (PCH) world-leading early intervention service at Kids Rehab WA is expanding across the state under the CONNECT-CP program. CP is the most common form of childhood disability in Australia and is caused by damage to the brain before, during or after birth.

This is Ali's story. After receiving support very early in life, 15-month-old Ali Hadi is thriving. Cerebral Palsy affects all his limbs, particularly the left side, and he began therapy at PCH after being identified as high-risk from birth, following the loss of his twin in utero and early MRI findings of brain injury.

Ali has similar physical abilities to a much younger child. He can lift his head but cannot yet roll, sit independently or grasp toys. Despite these challenges, Ali is a bright, engaged little boy who loves cars, being outdoors and story time. His mum, Farah, incorporates physiotherapy and stretching into his everyday play and credits the PCH team for giving Ali the best possible start in life. "Intervening as early as possible to get the best supports possible, came into our life at the perfect time, pretty much as soon as Ali was born, before even seeing the true impact of CP on his life," said Farah.

Local workforces will be equipped to deliver best-practice, culturally appropriate early assessments and therapies, helping reduce disability and improve quality of life for many vulnerable children and families across the state.

Jess Morris, PCH Senior Physiotherapist said, "With early detection, we're now minimising the negative impacts of disability on function and can maximise opportunities for successful participation."

Watch Ali's story here

HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS

Proudly supporting in WA

Perth Children's Hospital Foundation

BABY EMILY'S STORY



Baby Emily* (name changed for privacy) was born at 37 +3 weeks weighing just 2.42kg, meaning she required some extra checks for feeding, weight gain and jaundice.

During her hospital stay, mum found it quite challenging, having to wait for bottles to be prepared and waiting for the team to weigh baby as it meant everything took longer and impacted on her own rest and recovery.

Equipping the Monash Children's Hospital at Home program with specialist scales has meant that mum and baby do not have to remain in hospital to monitor Emily's weight gain. She can be assessed accurately and conveniently at home.

Being able to go home earlier than expected was such a relief for Emily's mum, knowing that she could be home with baby and the rest of her family. Enabling the rest of the family to bond with baby and help so she can feed on time and more comfortably in her home environment. Now they can spend quality time together.

Mum was incredibly grateful for the support provided by Monash Children's Hospital, Hospital at Home, which enabled her and her baby to return home sooner. Being in the comfort of home, surrounded by family, helping to build her confidence in caring for her baby while remaining connected to clinical support

HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS

Proudly supporting in

VIC

Monash Children's Hospital

EVANNA'S STORY

Meet Evanna. In just one year, she faced 5 hospital admissions, over 10 emergency visits, and battled pneumonia 6 times.



For her mum, Rhi, and their family, it meant being split in half; juggling work, life, and an hour-long commute to the hospital, all while Evanna faced the anxiety of constant medical procedures.

But then came The Smileyscope!
This medical-grade VR platform uses immersive, gamified distractions to reduce pain and anxiety for little ones. For Evanna, it meant no delays in treatment, less stress, and a much faster ticket home to her regular routine, her toys, and her family.

Home meant autonomy and safety for Evanna. She had her regular routine, food and knew that no one was coming to poke or prod her. She could finally relax and so could her mum.

Evanna loves being home, being with her family, familiar food and toys. She hated being kept in isolation. She was always on edge, waiting for someone to come in and do something that would upset her.

HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS

Proudly supporting in

ACT

CANBERRA HOSPITALS FOUNDATION



HONOURS



Hospitals United for Sick Kids was immensely proud to be recognised by the Women's & Children's Hospital Foundation with the Partnership Innovation Award.

Our Chair of the Board, Carrie Barker, accepted this honour at a special reception hosted by Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia, during the Foundation's 150 Years of Philanthropy commemoration.

The award celebrates our role in transforming national retail fundraising and unlocking innovative opportunities for community giving and is a powerful testament to our mission and purpose: helping sick kids get home to the things they miss by leveraging our national reach to deliver meaningful local impact.

HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS

Proudly supporting in

SA & NT

Women's & Children's Hospital Foundation

FY26 HIGHLIGHTS

$3.5M

RAISED

2,333

RETAIL TOUCHPOINTS

8

NEW PARTNERS

FOR-PURPOSE PARTNERSHIPS

HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS

HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS

PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION

STRONGER TOGETHER

Our partners and supporters are at the heart of everything we do. Partnership is the engine behind our impact. In FY26, this shared commitment multiplied our impact in communities across Australia.

Together with our brand, retail, media and hospital partners, we are turning everyday purchases into better outcomes for sick kids and their families.

PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION

UNITED FOR SICK KIDS

FY26 HIGHLIGHTS

FY26 marked a record year for our product-for-purpose model, proving that purpose-driven partnerships can deliver sustainable impact at scale. By uniting leading brands, retailers, media partners and our eight state-based hospital network partners, we are turning everyday purchases into meaningful support for sick kids and their families.

8

New national partners

Simplot with Bird's Eye, Magnum with Paddle Pop, Kraft Heinz with Golden Circle, Mars with M&M, Maltesers and MasterFoods sauces and Duracell with its entire range joined our cause this year along with Nine Network, Are Media and Tapt Radio. A 116% growth in partnerships takes our national partners to 13.

36%

Increase in funds raised for sick kids

More than $3.5 Million were raised in FY26, $1 Million more than FY25, making it our biggest year of fundraising and impact.

79%

Expansion in omnichannel touchpoints

With over 250 products giving back from every purchase across 2333 stores, both in-store and online, millions of Australians were able to give back while shopping for their everyday purchases.

MEDIA REACH > 19M

In FY26, our message reached further than ever before. Through Blip and our broader range of products for purpose, we engaged over 19 million Australians, bringing our cause into homes, workplaces and communities right across the country.

Every one of these touchpoints represented an opportunity to build awareness of childhood illness and the vital role our hospital network and corporate partners play, turning everyday moments and everyday purchases into a nationwide movement of support for sick kids and their families.

HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS | coles

FY26 HIGHLIGHT

$2.97M

Raised in FY26 to help sick kids get home to the things they miss.

Together, we are proving that everyday purchases can create extraordinary impact.

FY26 marked our most successful fundraising campaign yet with our long standing partner, Coles Group, demonstrating the power of partnership at scale.

Together with Coles, supplier partners and customers, we raised an incredible $2.39 million in just four weeks to help sick kids get home to the things they miss.

A major contributor to this result was Coles' first nationally rolled-out donate-at-checkout campaign, which raised over $1.2 million across 860 stores in just two weeks. More than 180 products, with a 50c donation, featured in the campaign, including the always-on Coles Mum's range, Coles Brand products and products from participating supplier partners. Mars, Kraft Heinz, Magnum Ice cream Co and Simplot joined the campaign for the first time, alongside returning partners Arnott's, Swisse Wellness, Kellogg's and Grinders Coffee Roasters, giving Australians more ways to support sick kids through their everyday shop.



HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS | coles

FY26 Total: $2.97M

Funds Raised to Date: $13.8M














FY26 also marked seven years of partnership with Coles. Since joining forces in 2019, Coles, its customers, team members and supplier partners have helped raise more than $13.8 million nationally, making a lasting difference for sick kids and their families.

"Since 2019, Coles has proudly partnered with Hospitals United for Sick Kids to help support eight children's hospitals, foundations and paediatric services across Australia.

Alongside our generous customers, dedicated team members and valued supplier partners we are making a real difference for sick and injured children and their families.

I'm so proud to share that this year, together we've raised an incredible $2,394,027, a record achievement.

Thank you to everyone for getting behind this campaign.

Your support continues to show what's possible when we come together to help children and families when they need it most.

Since our partnership began in 2019, together we have now donated more than $13 million to this important cause."

Leah Weckert
CEO, Coles Group

HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS | LOWES

FY26 HIGHLIGHT

$386,000

Raised in FY26 to help sick kids get home to the things they miss.

Looking good and doing good go hand in hand for our incredible partnership with Lowes Manhattan Pty Ltd.

For the third consecutive year, this iconic Australian retailer and proud supporter of the community, brought colour and purpose to stores nationwide through its bucket hats campaign, donating $10 from every bucket hat sold.

Together, these initiatives raised an outstanding $386,000 for our eight state based alliance partners in FY26, the biggest year the campaign has seen to date.

This year's result builds on two years of sustained support and reflects the ongoing generosity of Lowes' customers and staff across the country, reinforcing the strength of a partnership built on trust and shared purpose.

Beyond the financial contribution, the campaign reaffirmed Lowes' broader commitment to social responsibility, showing how a retail business can extend its impact well beyond the shop floor.



Thank You to Lowes Manhattan Pty Ltd, and to every customer who picked up a bucket hat, thank you. Your generosity helped raise $386,000 for sick kids and their families across Australia.

HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS | LOWES

FY26 Total: $386,000

Funds Raised to Date: $979,000



"This partnership has deeply resonated with both our teams and our customers. Our store teams rally around the campaign every year, taking great pride in knowing that each hat sold contributes to life-changing programs, equipment and research. It brings our people together with a shared purpose, strengthens team culture, and creates genuine connection with customers who want their purchase to make a real difference.

"Since launching this partnership, we've seen a remarkable uplift not only in customer engagement but in the way our brand is perceived. Customers recognise and value the authenticity behind the campaign as they can see the direct impact of their purchase, and that transparency fosters trust and loyalty."

Mrs Linda Penn
CEO Lowes Menswear

HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS | DURACELL

FY26 HIGHLIGHT

$125,000

Raised in FY26 to help sick kids get home to the things they miss.

Powering up for sick kids.

In FY26, Hospitals United for Sick Kids welcomed Duracell, a global battery brand, as a partner for the first time.

Together, we delivered a multi-retailer campaign, Power Up to Help Sick Kids, raising both funds and awareness across Coles, Bunnings, Amazon, IGA and Kmart.

Alongside its charitable purpose, the campaign shone a light on an important safety issue, helping educate parents and carers about the dangers of lithium coin battery ingestion in young children.

With a 20-cent contribution from every Duracell product sold across the five retail partners, the campaign raised $125,000 in its debut year, funds that will go directly towards helping sick kids across Australia get home to the things they miss.



"At Duracell, powering families is at the heart of what we do. Through our partnership with Hospitals United for Sick Kids, we are raising awareness about Lithium coin battery safety to help reduce the risk of accidental battery ingestion among young children, while also supporting children and families across Australia. This initiative reflects our commitments and our partnership with the community in a shared effort to help keep kids safe and at home".

David Hazell, Sales Director for Duracell Australia and New Zealand

7TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

180 PRODUCTS. 9 PARTNERS. 4 WEEKS.

In FY26, Arnott's and Swisse Wellness returned for the third year in a row to support Hospitals United for Sick Kids while Kellogg's and Grinders joined us for the second time.

Simplot with Bird's Eye, Magnum Ice cream Co with Paddlepop, Kraft Heinz with Golden Circle, Mars with M&M, Maltesers and MasterFoods came on board for the first time and contributed incredibly to our fundraising efforts.

9 of Australia's biggest brands put over 180 products on shelves that gave back during the campaign, raising over $1.2M.

RETURNING PARTNERS

NEW PARTNERS

HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS

Swisse

FY26 HIGHLIGHT

$100,000

Raised in FY26 to help sick kids get home to the things they miss.

On a mission to bring health and happiness

FY26 marked three years of partnership with Swisse Wellness, as they came on board for the 7th edition of the annual Coles and Hospitals United for Sick Kids fundraising campaign.

FY26 Total: $100,000

Funds Raised to Date: $320,000

Swisse Wellness is on a mission to help millions of people feel healthier and happier, with a genuine commitment to purpose and social good built into how they operate. As part of the H&H Group, they share deep common ground with Hospitals United for Sick Kids in what we are both working to achieve.

With 77 products across the range, each giving 50 cents per sale, the partnership raised $100,000 for sick kids and their families as part of our annual fundraising campaign with Coles.

Thank you, Swisse Wellness, for being on the team for sick kids.



Always read the label and follow the directions for use

HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS

ARNOTT'S

FY26 HIGHLIGHT

$125,000

Raised in FY26 to help sick kids get home to the things they miss.

On a mission to create "delicious moments" that matter.

FY26 marked the third year of partnership with The Arnott's Group, as they once again supported our fundraising campaign with Coles, helping raise an outstanding $125,000 for Hospitals United for Sick Kids.

FY26 Total: $125,000

Funds Raised to Date: $290,000

The Arnott's Group is committed to making a difference in the communities it serves. They create delicious moments that matter and now these moments are helping sick kids get home to the things they miss. Funds were raised from a 50 cent donation on select Arnott's products throughout the 7th annual Coles and Hospitals United for Sick Kids campaign.



Thank you, Arnott's Group, for your continued support and commitment to helping sick kids and their families.

"This partnership resonates strongly with our team and the broader community, bringing people together behind a shared purpose and helping create meaningful impact through life-changing programs for children and families in need"

Rob Cannone
Customer Director Coles – The Arnotts Group.

HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS | Kellogg's

FY26 HIGHLIGHT

$125,000

Raised in FY26 to help sick kids get home to the things they miss.

On a mission to "bring better days" to people.

FY26 marked the second year of partnership with Kellogg's®, as they came on board for our fundraising campaign with Coles, helping raise an incredible $125,000.

FY26 Total: $125,000
Funds Raised to Date: $250,000

Kellogg's® believes that doing good for society is core to running a good business, and that belief starts with nourishing families every day. In FY26, this belief translated into real support for sick kids and their families across Australia.

Funds raised by Kellogg's® came from a 50 cent donation on select products throughout the 7th annual Coles and Hospitals United for Sick Kids fundraising campaign.

We appreciate their continued partnership and commitment to supporting sick children and their families.



HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS

GRINDERS™ COFFEE ROASTERS

FY26 HIGHLIGHT

$60,000

Raised in FY26 to help sick kids get home to the things they miss.

On a mission to create a “strong, connected community”.

FY26 marked the second year of partnership with Grinders Coffee Roasters, as they once again backed our fundraising campaign with Coles, helping raise an outstanding $60,000 for Hospitals United for Sick Kids.

FY26 Total: $60,000

Funds Raised to Date: $110,000



HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS | Simplot

FY26 HIGHLIGHT

$160,000

Raised in FY26 to help sick kids get home to the things they miss.

FY26 marked the first year of partnership with Simplot, as they joined our fundraising campaign with Coles, helping raise $160,000 and becoming our single biggest supplier partner for this campaign.

This year, through the Birds Eye® Deli range of fish and chips, they have extended their contribution for sick kids and their families. We're immensely thankful for their partnership and commitment to supporting sick kids get home to the things they miss like fish and chips.



HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS

THE MAGNUM ICE CREAM COMPANY

FY26 HIGHLIGHT

$125,000

Raised in FY26 to help sick kids get home to the things they miss.

On a mission to make life taste better for Australians

FY26 marked the first year of partnership with The Magnum Ice Cream Company which makes some of Australia's most iconic ice creams, including Paddle Pop, Magnum, Weis, Ben & Jerry's and Cornetto. The Magnum Ice Cream Company backed our fundraising campaign with Coles, helping raise an outstanding $125,000.

Funds raised came from a 50-cent donation on select Paddle Pop products throughout the 7th annual Coles and Hospitals United for Sick Kids fundraising campaign. Paddle Pop believes in the joy of wholesome childhood fun, encouraging families to come together and enjoy the simple experience of eating ice cream together. That shared belief made it a natural partner in helping sick children get back to the moments they miss most with the people they love.



We are grateful for The Magnum Ice Cream Company's commitment to supporting sick children and their families across Australia

We're on a mission to make life taste better for Australians. That's why we're proud to support Hospitals United for Sick Kids and the important work they do to help children and families through some of life's toughest moments. Together, we're helping sick kids get back to the everyday experiences they miss most, from time with family and friends to simple moments of joy, like sharing an ice cream together."

The Magnum Ice Cream Company

HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS

KraftHeinz

FY26 HIGHLIGHT

$100,000

Raised in FY26 to help sick kids get home to the things they miss.

On a mission to spark joy and create moments that bring people together.

FY26 marked the premier year of our partnership with Kraft Heinz as we welcomed them to the 7th edition of our fundraising campaign with Coles. In their first year, Kraft Heinz contributed $100,000 towards helping sick kids and their families.

Kraft Heinz believes in products and brands that spark joy, bring people together, and create memorable moments for people across the globe. In FY26, that belief came to life through Golden Circle, helping bring sick kids closer to the moments they miss.

Funds raised by Kraft Heinz came from a 50 cent donation on select Golden Circle® products throughout the 7th annual Coles and Hospitals United for Sick Kids fundraising campaign. Our heartfelt thank you for their participation in our campaign.



HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS | MARS

FY26 HIGHLIGHT

$100,000

Raised in FY26 to help sick kids get home to the things they miss.

On a mission to help people and their pets live happier, healthier lives.

FY26 marked the start of our partnership with Mars. They supported the 7th edition of our fundraising campaign with Coles, raising $100,000 towards the cause of sick kids in their first year.

In FY26, Mars extended its mission to help people live happier, healthier lives to support sick kids getting home from hospital. Funds raised by Mars came from a 50-cent donation on select M&M's, Maltesers and MasterFoods Sauces throughout the 7th annual Coles and Hospitals United for Sick Kids fundraising campaign. This marked the beginning of a new partnership between Mars and Hospitals United for Sick Kids, one we look forward to building on in the years ahead.





"The Hospitals United for Sick Kids team truly excelled in bringing our participating brands together, turning a shared vision into an exceptional Retail Media campaign that not only drove performance, but ultimately helped make a tangible difference in the lives of children in need."

The Mars Snacking Team

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS



CLEMENGER BBDO

As our award-winning full-service agency, Clemenger BBDO has played a transformative role in our growth and national reach. By combining deep consumer insight with strategic brilliance, their team brought Blip to life, shaping it into both a moving metaphor and a beacon of hope for sick kids.

Clemenger BBDO's creative vision has elevated our mission to new heights. We are immensely thankful for their unwavering partnership and dedication to helping us support sick kids and their families.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Nine for their extraordinary, cross-platform support this year. From featured segments on Today Extra to targeted reach across television, print, digital, and social media, Nine brought Hospitals United for Sick Kids and our signature Blip products directly into Australian homes nationwide.

Special thanks go to the producers of Today Extra, along with Nine's network-wide TV, print, digital, talent management teams and significantly, Nine Cares. By amplifying our story on a national stage, Nine played a vital role in showing Australians how effortless it is to support sick kids through their daily shopping.

are

Our heartfelt thanks go to Are Media for opening up their national print titles to share and support our cause. Their support brought vital attention to our core message: that every small 50-cent contribution attached to an everyday item helps bring a hospitalised child one step closer to home.

LOOKING AHEAD

BUILDING IMPACT TOGETHER



FY26 has been a year of meaningful progress, shared purpose and deep collaboration. The impact we've created together is real and it's just the beginning.

As we look to the future, our focus remains on scaling our product for purpose model, deepening our impact and ensuring we continue to deliver lasting value for the communities and partners who inspire our work every day.

OUR PRIORITIES AHEAD

DEEPEN COMMUNITY IMPACT

Expand programs and partnerships that strengthen inclusion, wellbeing and opportunity.

DRIVE MEASURABLE GROWTH

Invest in capability, innovation and evidence to scale what delivers meaningful outcomes.

STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS

Build long-term, values-aligned relationships that create shared value and greater reach.

HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS



HELP OUR LITTLEST LOCALS GET HOME FROM HOSPITAL

GET IN TOUCH

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HOSPITALS UNITED FOR SICK KIDS

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