



GIVING 2023



Building a better and brighter
future for WA kids

In 2023, Telethon
is proud to be
supporting:

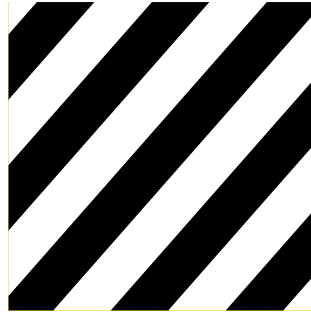
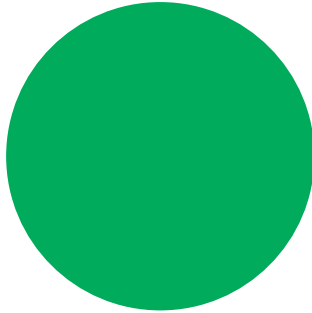
54

medical research grants
into childhood diseases

107
beneficiaries

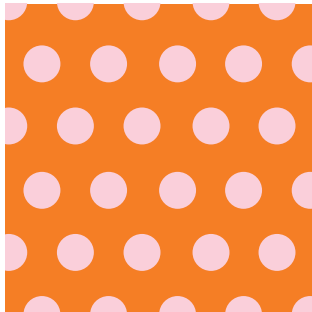
21
new beneficiaries

6,604
acts of kindness

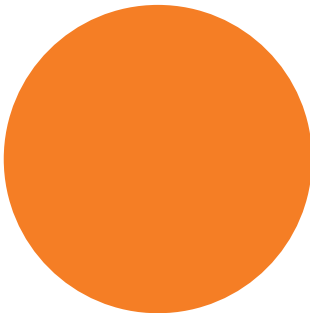


127
programs and
critical services

548
pieces of
equipment

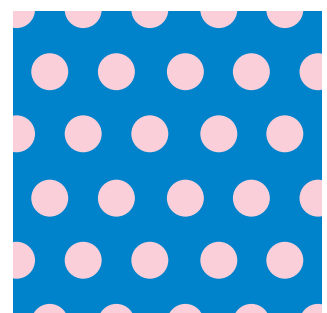


226
grants funded



Acknowledgement of Country

Telethon acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Western Australia and pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging. We recognise the significant importance of their cultural heritage, values and beliefs and how these contribute to the positive health and wellbeing of the whole community.



Chairman's Report

In 2022, our Little Telethon Stars Ari Phillips, Leo Beazley and Emily Siew harnessed their energy, talents and unbreakable spirit to help raise money for other sick children and inspire an entire state to help others less fortunate.

The stories behind the trio, chosen to be ambassadors for Telethon last year, remind us why every dollar raised is so important.

As a community, we raised a record-breaking \$71.4 million – an incredible achievement that will have a real and positive impact on the health and wellbeing of Western Australian children now and in the future.

Telethon wouldn't happen without the support of West Australians who dig deep every year. The generosity is so diverse, extending from million-dollar partners to kids giving their pocket money. What makes your donation even more impactful is that every dollar of our fundraising goes directly to our beneficiaries to benefit sick kids.

I have so many wonderful memories of last year's Telethon Weekend. One of my favourites was witnessing the remarkable generosity of so many children and schools who joined us at RAC Arena to support our fundraising efforts and help other kids.

On behalf of Telethon Trustees we would like to thank everyone who played a role.

It's amazing to think that Telethon has now raised more than \$500 million for charitable causes and purposes since its establishment in 1968.

Even better to think we're just getting started and there's plenty more to do.

Thanks to the generosity of West Australians, the Telethon Trust is very proud to be supporting 107 beneficiaries in 2023. These fantastic organisations will deliver medical research, much-needed programs and services and life-changing equipment for sick, disadvantaged and vulnerable children.

Our desire to make a real difference and help others in need means Telethon-funded services will reach many thousands of children and young families across the state – a great outcome that should make our entire community feel proud.

We look forward to sharing with you the wonderful impactful work being delivered by our beneficiaries and highlighting some of the achievements, outcomes and feel-good stories that can only happen thanks to your generosity.

Many generations of West Australians have benefitted from Telethon over 56 years. Telethon is our common purpose that connects us as a community. We look forward to another huge year for Telethon in 2023 and your continued support and generosity.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Goyder".

Richard Goyder AO



Trio of Little Telethon Stars inspire Western Australians

The Little Telethon Stars of 2022 have different stories, lives and diagnoses but what they do have in common is a love of life, unbreakable spirits and the ability to inspire everyone they meet.

As ambassadors for the 55th annual Telethon fundraising event, Ari Phillips, Leo Beazley and Emily Siew were tasked with encouraging West Australians to give generously to help raise funds for sick children.

From television appearances, meeting celebrities, challenging the Prime Minister to wear pyjamas, and fundraising at school to playing a round of golf with Fat Cat for the Telethon trio this has been an uplifting, life-changing experience that they will never forget.

Ari, Leo and Emily have forged a special bond and lifelong friendship.

Hi, I'm Ari

For Ari, being a Little Telethon Star was one of the key moments of his life. When he was almost two, Ari was diagnosed with the degenerative muscle-wasting condition congenital muscular dystrophy. He has a particularly rare form of the condition, putting him among just 50 cases worldwide. Ari has never walked and uses an electric wheelchair to get around. But it hasn't slowed him down.

Ari's family was connected to Muscular Dystrophy WA on the first day of his diagnosis, and the Telethon beneficiary has helped to guide his journey ever since.

"It's important to love yourself and love other people. It doesn't matter what your abilities are. Just keep fighting through it."





Hi, I'm Emily

Emily was born with bilateral hearing loss and has received ongoing support from Telethon Speech and Hearing since she was a baby. But she has had even more to contend with in her short life: she was also diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia at three years of age.

Emily bravely endured years of intensive chemotherapy and treatment at the Perth Children's Hospital. She lost her hair in those dark days, but never lost her bright spark, sweet smile and passion for life. The disease is now in remission, but the eight-year-old still attends the clinic every three months for review. Emily dreams of becoming a doctor one day so she can help others.

"When I walked onto the stage at Telethon, I was a little bit scared and nervous, but it was awesome. I really wanted to raise lots of money to help kids in need in WA."

Hi, I'm Leo

Leo Beazley was no stranger to Telethon when he was selected as a Little Telethon Star. In 2021 Leo handed over \$600 to Telethon, turning up on Telethon Weekend with a plastic bag full of coins and asking if he could give it to sick kids.

When Leo was not meeting his developmental milestones after birth, doctors discovered he had the same chromosomal difference that had contributed to the death of his brother, Jordan, when he was aged just three months. Seven-year-old Leo was more recently diagnosed with Titin muscular dystrophy – an incredibly rare and evolving form of muscular dystrophy that causes weakness in his muscles. He is the only child in Australia with this condition.

Leo is an incredibly friendly, happy boy and easily finds joy in every moment. One of his favourite activities is attending wheelchair sports operated by Telethon beneficiary Rebound WA.

"At the end of Telethon, I stood up and started dancing. Thanks to Telethon I made great friends. When we looked at each other we attached straight away."



Introducing the 2023 Telethon Grant Recipients

Telethon is dedicated to transforming and positively impacting the lives of sick, disadvantaged and vulnerable children in Western Australia who need our help and support.

Through the ongoing generosity of Western Australians, this year Telethon will support 107 children's charities and beneficiaries, delivering life-changing programs, purchasing equipment and funding medical research into childhood diseases to ensure a better life for our children now and in the future.





Big Buckets and Future Leaders are group mentoring and personal development programs for educationally disadvantaged students from local high schools who need guidance and additional support during their high school years. These programs are led by a youth coordinator with assistance from a youth worker and 12 Buckets volunteer mentors.



The High Care Kids project works closely with children living with severe and complex disabilities across Perth metro and regional areas of WA, using modified activities and adaptive recreation equipment; The All Abilities Art project provides participants with an opportunity to engage in artistic expression when they otherwise have limited opportunities to participate in these sessions at their own discretion.



The Teen Mentoring Program provides an exciting opportunity for autistic high school students to mentor autistic primary school students. This ground breaking initiative enables autistic children to connect, collaborate and inspire each other as they work together on creative and meaningful community-driven projects.

54 reasons

Part of the Save the Children Australia Group

The Home to School program supports culturally and linguistically diverse families who have migrated to WA and are likely to experience language and knowledge barriers to critical services. Program participants are supported in the education, health, wellbeing and social services essential to their child's healthy development.



The In-home Baby Intervention Service provides early intervention therapy to babies with or at risk of developmental delay or disability. Experienced therapists provide invaluable support in the comfort of the child's home. The Early Intervention Equipment Library provides children living with disability and developmental delay with quick access to a well-stocked loan library of equipment, allowing them to continue developing at their own pace.



Allergy Support Hub's vision is for children with allergies and their families to live their best life. Through the provision of support, education and psychological services they assist children and their families to navigate allergy diagnosis, manage life transitions, and provide support for the bumps along the way.



Young Hearts is a free counselling service, giving vulnerable children a safe space to explore their experiences of family and domestic violence. Through art, dance, play and talk therapy, Young Hearts empowers children to overcome their trauma, while developing the skills to build healthy relationships and thrive in the future.



The Children's Asthma Hub is the only service allowing children with respiratory conditions to access paediatric lung function testing, specialist review and education together, ensuring accurate diagnosis, correct treatment and increased knowledge of managing the condition at home, decreasing hospitalisations and life-threatening asthma attacks. The forced oscillation technique machine is a non-invasive method of lung function testing that measures the respiratory system's resistance and reactance during breathing.



Australian Children's Music Foundation will deliver long-term music education and instruments to children and at-risk youth, allowing children the opportunity to learn and develop musical skills while experiencing the joy of creativity, developing imagination, and achieving positive educational and behavioural outcomes.



During laparoscopic/keyhole surgery, ventilators take over a child's breathing. Prolonged ventilation can injure the lungs, particularly in young children who are at an increased risk for airway and lung damage. The COMET study uses a novel non-invasive method for the continuous assessment of lung mechanics in anaesthetised children which has potential to transform global practice in how children are ventilated during surgery.



Autism Connect supports vulnerable families of young children with autism to access early diagnosis, funding and intervention. The program includes specialist playgroups for children and their parents, workshops for community professionals, and programs that increase family capacity and relationships including parent support groups tailored to the unique needs of father figures of children with autism and groups for siblings.

BIG h ART

Every child, everywhere, has the right to thrive. Banthunguru-bura (Next Generation) delivers intergenerational workshops, grounded in culture, held by Elders, and delivered on country in Roebourne. Children learn a range of new skills and confidences, then apply them in front of their community, receiving positive feedback and boosting a sense of belonging, confidence and resilience.



Let's Get Visible is an after-school sports and recreation program aimed at school age children who are blind or vision impaired. The program provides a safe space for children to learn and develop fundamental gross motor skills through a variety of blind sports and recreational activities. These activities will increase their self-confidence, spatial awareness, physical and mental health through exercise, improve their social skills, provide a sense of belonging and give incidental supports whilst also creating friendships. Funding will also support the procurement of specialised sports and recreation equipment.



The WA Inclusive Communities Project aims to reduce incidents of bullying and its harmful effects on the wellbeing of vulnerable children in WA. The project aims to achieve this through the delivery of powerful bullying prevention programs in 75 schools across Perth and regional areas of WA.



Cahoots Healthy Hearts and Minds Program is the extension of the highly successful pilot Cahoots Art Wellness Program. It is a holistic arts program designed to improve mental and emotional health amongst children and young people living with a disability or disadvantage.



Camp Autism WA provides unique camps for autistic children and their families run by families inclusive of siblings, parents and caregivers. They encourage connections with each other in the community for inclusive fun, adventure and support to help autism families shine.



Every day in Australia, 38 children discover that their Mum or Dad has cancer. For these kids the enormity of the diagnosis has an impact on their emotional wellbeing. They can feel afraid, alone and isolated. Camp Quality's Kids Impacted by Carers Cancer Program provides direct, tangible support to these kids and their families.



The Child and Adolescent Health Service (CAHS) treats children from around WA and is committed to programs that promote lifelong health in children and adolescents. CAHS is made up of Neonatology, Community Health, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services and Perth Children's Hospital. Discovering new ways of preventing, diagnosing and treating childhood diseases and conditions to improve the health and wellbeing of children is one of the ways CAHS aims to give children and young people the best start in life and achieve their vision of "healthy kids, healthy communities".

The Education Advocacy program will employ two specialist educators that will support child cancer patients. The educator will stay with the child for the treatment journey, tutoring and advocating for them at a hospital level and with the school to keep them at an adequate standard to return to class after treatment.



Children's Cancer Institute is leveraging the world-first Zero Childhood Cancer Program to establish a comprehensive, multidisciplinary preclinical research program designed to develop novel technologies and models, to bring evidence-based precision medicine to every child and young person diagnosed with high-risk cancer in WA.



A circus arts training program for children and youth living with disability, including weekly circus classes, specialist workshops in choreography for diverse body types, and performance through clown and physical theatre. The training year will culminate in a production called *be'spoke* at the State Theatre Centre.



The ethics pilot program delivers weekly critical thinking, ethical reasoning, empathy and social skills development to student groups in 12 WA public schools located in lower socio-economic areas. The pilot is being expanded to offer an ongoing program to other public schools in low socio-economic areas across WA, with volunteers facilitating student groups' exploration of ethical dilemmas that build crucial decision-making and life skills.



The SCHOOL-KONTAKT Social Skills Toolbox will empower autistic students to practise and apply their social skills at high school. The PhotoVoice program, piloted through Australasia's first Solar Community Hub in the Kimberley, will give kids living in underserved Indigenous communities access to digital technology to uplift health and education outcomes.



The Chronic Wet Cough Community Education program empowers families in regional Aboriginal communities to seek health advice on chronic wet cough and raises health professionals' awareness to enable appropriate diagnosis and treatment of respiratory infections to minimise lung damage. The Thriving Families program supports at-risk children with cystic fibrosis and their families to access services that improve their health and wellbeing, regardless of socio-economic status, geographic location, physical and mental health.



Derbarl Yerrigan is increasing access for (Aboriginal children) Koolankas in Perth with complex health needs and developmental vulnerabilities to life-changing assessment and diagnostic support. This culturally appropriate Paediatric GP service is expanding its model of care that has demonstrated early success within an Aboriginal Community Controlled primary health care model.

Equipment library fast-tracks access to therapies

Since 2017, the Telethon-funded In-Home Baby Intervention Service (IBIS) delivered by Ability WA has supported the development, health and wellbeing of vulnerable WA infants.

Research proves that children with developmental delays or disabilities have better outcomes when they start therapy as early as possible. However, access to quality early childhood intervention services and equipment can be challenging. Ability WA's loan library gives children and their families access to equipment that provides independence, comfort and inclusion in family activities.

Finn Stepien's parents realised he wasn't hitting the usual developmental milestones at three months old. The Stepien family was suddenly catapulted into a world of doctor visits and tests. At age one, Finn was diagnosed with a life-limiting rare genetic condition that affects all areas of his development.



In the early stages of his diagnosis, while his parents navigated therapies, funding and support equipment, Finn was given vital therapy and loaned equipment through Ability WA to support his development.

Finn's mother Amy said: "Our son Finn was given a standing system from the loan library. His face lit up from the first time he was put in it. This stander not only supported him physically to build strength in his legs and hips but also gave him a whole new perspective. He absolutely loved being able to see everyone and everything around him. It also gave him the independence to play and interact with others, including his big sister."

Thanks to Telethon, Ability WA can significantly expand its therapeutic equipment loan library to provide vulnerable children with quick access to specialised strollers, wheelchairs, high-chairs, walkers, standing frames and seating. This has a life-changing positive impact, supporting children with the right equipment at the right time.

Ability WA's equipment loan library was established initially with Telethon funding, and Telethon is proud to continue its funding and make early childhood intervention a priority.





The state wide Family Support and Developmental Playgroup programs provide support and resources to families with children aged 0-17 diagnosed with down syndrome. These create a solid foundation for the child with knowledge and skills for life. Telethon funding will support the purchase of giant outdoor games and sensory tools to motivate participants to get outside, get active and tap into their competitive side.



The Dyslexia SPELD Foundation Family Support Initiative aims to provide parents and caregivers of children and adolescents with learning and language difficulties (including specific learning disorder and developmental language disorder) with a variety of relevant support services, including regular in-person and online information sessions, presentations by guest speakers, and a dedicated website.



A team of the brightest minds from around the globe will collaborate to enhance the lives of WA children living with ear and hearing disorders, delivering innovative treatments and developing ground-breaking cures for tomorrow's generation. Using novel 3D inner ear cell culture system as a platform to test new treatments for children with usher syndrome, and further development of internationally acclaimed novel scaffold to repair perforated eardrums in children.



Earbus will provide regular ear health services to Aboriginal and at-risk children in regional and remote WA communities. Doctors, audiologists, nurses and ear, throat and nose specialists will diagnose and treat middle ear disease and hearing loss in partnership with local Aboriginal Medical Services and allied health agencies.



This project is aimed at preventing *Clostridium difficile infection* (CDI) in paediatric cancer patients by identifying CDI risk factors, sources and transmission routes. The anticipated outcomes are to improve infection prevention and control policies at Perth Children's Hospital and increase awareness about reservoirs and sources of *C. difficile*.



The Remote Community program will provide respite and mentoring programs via safe recreational and developmental environments to support vulnerable children aged 7-16 in regional and remote WA communities. The 60 Places for 60 Kids program will place sixty at-risk or vulnerable children on a respite program.



The Children and Epilepsy Program provides loan seizure-alert devices, a children's book loan library, online video story time sessions, and a dedicated full-time epilepsy support nurse to children and families throughout WA. It is aimed at helping children living with epilepsy come to terms with a new diagnosis, reduce risk of epilepsy-related harm, lessen feelings of fear and anxiety around seizures, treatments and testing regimes, and aid children (and parents) to sleep more soundly.



The RADIANCE project aims to prevent self-harm and suicidality in adolescents with ADHD, which affects about 5 per cent of adolescents, causing emotional dysregulation and elevated risks of self-harm. RADIANCE will capture factors to reduce emotional distress and self-harm, and increase flourishing after ADHD treatments, thereby informing design of future service delivery.



Football (soccer) is the most inclusive and accessible sport in the world. The round ball is a celebration of diversity, social connection and belonging. Sports participation, on all levels, evokes a strong sense of community. Football for All provides rich all-abilities community football experiences for young West Australians.



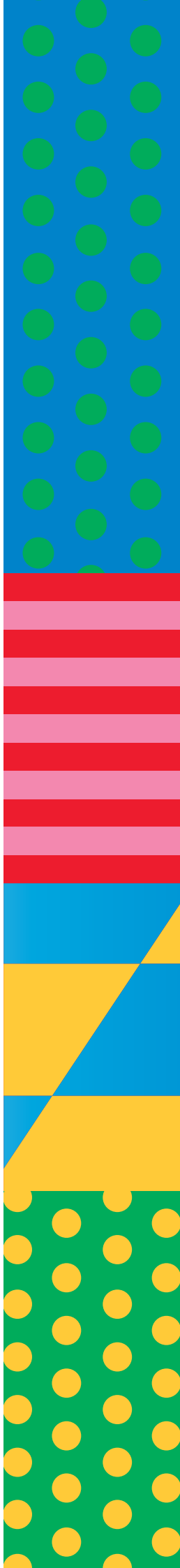
The Level the Playing Field project tackles inequality in access to sports equipment for children in socio-economically disadvantaged communities across WA. In addition, the Recycle & Donate program, which distributes preloved sports shoes and equipment to children, is being expanded. The Fit and Healthy in the Outback program delivers engaging active fitness sessions and fun interactive health promotion activities, with donations of preloved sports equipment, to children in remote communities across WA.



The School Breakfast Program provides WA children over 68,000 breakfasts per week across 492 schools. While food security is the primary aim, benefits of the program extend beyond food provision to education, health and social outcomes. Food Sensations for Children is a comprehensive nutrition education and cooking program. It is delivered by public health nutritionists to empower parents of young children with the knowledge, skills and confidence to create nutritious meals and positive mealtime experiences for the whole family.



The Fostering Joy program provides fun activities for foster children and children in out-of-home care. Fostering Hope hosts children with activity-rich, exciting events primarily based around holidays.





Children with autism currently have poor academic and social outcomes. This project provides services for children with autism using science-based methods presently unavailable in Australia that support improved educational, social and mental health outcomes for children with autism, their families, peers and teachers.



Through Good Sammy's Explore Work Program, students with disability in Years 10-12 will participate in paid work experience, training and other opportunities. Graduates of the program will receive a certified traineeship in Retail, Business Administration or Supply Chain and the opportunity of future employment.



Hannah's House supports children with life-limiting or complex conditions and their families to live their best quality of life through the delivery of in-home care, play programs, education and other complementary supports.



Healthy Strides Foundation is a dedicated intensive therapy centre, providing treatments that have been informed by the latest research to enable children and youth to have the best opportunities to achieve their goals and participate in everyday life. As well as providing evidence-based treatments to children with neurological conditions and injuries, Healthy Strides together with Telethon can undertake world-leading research right here in WA.



HeartKids provides vital in-hospital, regional and local community services to thousands of families affected by congenital and childhood acquired heart disease, ensuring they are supported throughout their child's health journey. HeartKids works with health professionals and service providers for the best outcomes for heart kids and their families.



Helping Little Hands aims to support premature babies and their families. This grant will enable them to continue culturally sensitive support to Aboriginal parents with premature or sick babies at improving medical outcomes. A new program will also see the services delivered currently at King Edward Memorial Hospital and Perth Children's Hospital connect to Joondalup Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, providing a continuity of care.



HorsePower provides fun equestrian programs and events for children with health, wellness and physical ability challenges at riding centres around the state. Funding assists with the upkeep of our most significant asset, our horses and ponies, by which our volunteers deliver HorsePower programs.



The Building Inclusive Schools project focuses on the inclusion of children with disabilities in high school. This project involves Ben Popham OAM, dual Paralympic gold medalist, world record holder and Little Telethon Star from 2011 sharing his inspirational journey to students across the state.



The ability to communicate is a crucial part of a child's development and life. Indigo aims to make augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) devices more readily accessible for WA children. AAC encompasses many methods of communication that provide a voice when speech does not meet all of a child's needs.



The Rio Tinto Children's Diabetes Centre is the first paediatric JDRF Global Centre of Excellence. Established by JDRF as part of its mission to create a world without type 1 diabetes (T1D), it supports the translation of new knowledge and proven treatments into clinical care for children and adolescents with T1D.



The Kalparrin Hospital Support Program provides practical guidance and support to WA children with disability and their families at Perth Children's Hospital. The program helps families, often at the point of diagnosis or during the many outpatient appointments that follow, to understand the implications of the diagnosis and to get necessary supports in place quickly.



A pilot program supporting disadvantaged and vulnerable children at Gwynne Park Primary School, Armadale. This program will identify children at developmental risk, provide allied health assessment and intervention and co-designed programs to support children in the classroom. This will achieve early intervention for at-risk children and improve their developmental outcomes.



KCSG Playgroup provides a safe and supportive environment for families with immunocompromised children undergoing cancer treatment to come together. The program provides a much-needed opportunity for children aged 0-8 and parents to socialise, with play and a focus on music and relaxation therapy techniques to assist the children and parents cope with trauma and stress.



Kites hopes to empower more children with therapy dogs, knowing the profound connections made between child and animal helps motivate children to reach their therapy milestone. Telethon is supporting the purchase, training and raising of four therapy dogs, from playful pup to working dog, helping to improve a child's social, cognitive and emotional functioning.



Legacy WA focuses on the resilience, health and wellbeing of children of deceased or ill military veterans. With a multidisciplinary approach using evidence-based, age-appropriate strategies and early intervention mental health services, Legacy WA works with these children to ensure they are not disadvantaged as a result of their parent's service through camps and education support.



Sometimes it helps to know that someone is listening and that you don't have to face your problems alone. Lifeline WA's mission is to prevent suicide, support people in crisis and reduce the stigmas, which can be a barrier to people seeking help. The Digital Crisis Support, Text and Online Chat service connects young people to supporters in times of crisis. To ensure the sustainability of the service and to meet ongoing demand for these modalities, Lifeline WA will recruit and develop a volunteer pool of digital crisis supporters.



The New Families Camp provides a safe, fun-filled space for children, adolescents and adults to explore and understand their grief following the death of a loved one. Lionheart empowers bereaved children and families to navigate their grief journey using tools like education, support and strength-building.



A centre of excellence, combining world-class ophthalmology treatment with ground-breaking scientific research in eye and vision health. With a rich history of research translation and community engagement, the Lions Eye Institute and its community outreach service, Lions Outback Vision, strive towards its mission to prevent and cure blindness and eye disease from infancy to childhood and throughout adulthood in metropolitan, regional and remote WA.



Make-A-Wish grants inspirational wish journeys for critically ill children. They've made unicorns fly, sent kids to the moon and brought dinosaurs back from extinction. For everyone involved the impact of a wish fulfilled has an immediate uplifting and positive effect, empowering children with hope and joy when they need it most.



Meningococcal, meningitis and related diseases can kill in 24 hours. Meningitis Centre has a key outreach message of KNOW the signs, ACT immediately, VACCINATE for the WA community, education providers, clinicians, and Indigenous and culturally and linguistically diverse communities. This essential message will save lives and reduce disability in children throughout WA in metro and regional areas.

Creating employment opportunities for WA youth

Young people with disabilities are twice as likely to be unemployed. To help change this, Good Sammy created the Explore Work Program. The program supports the wellbeing of adolescents with disability in WA by providing work experience and certified training for high school students as a pathway to employment.

In 2014 Kayla Baker participated in an early iteration of the program. During this time, Kayla worked and trained in one of the Good Sammy op shops, where she gained critical skills and grew her confidence, independence and interpersonal skills. Kayla enjoyed the experience so much that after finishing high school, she gained permanent employment with Good Sammy. Over time, Kayla took on more responsibilities, and she was named Employee of the Year in 2022.

Kayla's mum, Dawn, is one of Good Sammy's most passionate volunteers and has nothing but praise for the role Good Sammy has played in Kayla's employment journey.

"Kayla loves her job. Her confidence has grown out of this world. She's just a totally different person. She's happy all the time and she's got opportunities coming out the woodwork," Dawn said.

With Telethon's support, Good Sammy will introduce a new Explore Work Program which will support 15 high school students with disability to obtain work and enrol in a certified traineeship in one of their social enterprises.



Western Australian research improving health for children worldwide

For more than 30 years, the Raine Study has made life-changing discoveries as one of the world's largest and most successful research studies of pregnancy, childhood and adulthood.

Since 1989, the Raine Study has followed more than 2000 WA children, their parents, and now their own children to collect health and lifestyle data which has contributed to more than 600 research findings.

The Raine Study has always been a part of 32-year-old William Aitken's life, with his mother Amanda recruited to participate in early pregnancy. William has seen the impact of the Raine Study and the groundbreaking research it enables on child

health outcomes, including confirming the safety and setting the standard schedule for ultrasounds for pregnant women and babies.

Now a father of two, William is eager for his children to participate in the Raine Study and help build better and brighter futures for WA children and families.

William says: "I am very proud to say I'm a Raine Study participant, knowing that the study drives so many discoveries to improve worldwide health and wellbeing. I'm thrilled for my children to have the same opportunity to be part of something that makes a difference."

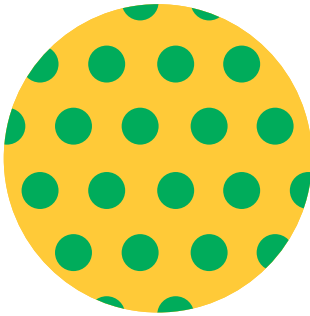
The Raine Study is now a truly multigenerational study, with Telethon funding to help researchers explore long-term health outcomes across three generations.



In 2022, Telethon funded grants directly impacted

112,158
children

94,416
parents



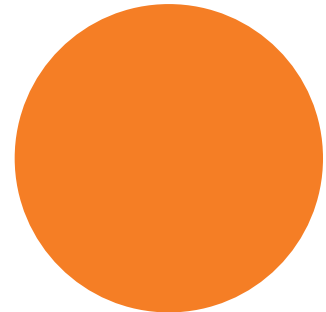
1,178
schools



132
unique locations
(by suburb)



68,499
families



We're proud to celebrate working with

10
YEARS
Constable Care

20
YEARS
Camp Quality

20
YEARS
Therapy Focus

Telethon Speech and Hearing's early intervention Talkabout Program has transformed participants ability to communicate with family and friends. Talkabout Group 2 increased the number of words and sentences from 2.3 to 4.1 words and Talkabout Group 3 increased the number of words in sentences from 0.9 - 3.5 words, from the beginning to the end 2022

Thanks to their outreach audiology clinics, 293 children were screened across 13 schools to assist with referrals into hearing intervention services.

Ensuring children continue to reach their developmental milestones, Telethon Speech and Hearing's Chatterbox program supported 85 children to ensure their deteriorating or permanent hearing loss does not affect their ability to thrive.

40
YEARS
Telethon Speech & Hearing

2,802
hours

Ability WA has provided more than 2,800 hours of one on one in-home therapy sessions and care.

26,503
children

Bully Zero have empowered more than 26,500 children to take action against bullying and support friends to feel safer, stronger and happier.

14,272
pieces of equipment

Repurposed sports equipment was gifted to children in need, thanks to Fair Game Australia.

415
children

Ocean Heroes held 11 free events across regional areas in WA, 415 autistic children experienced the thrill of catching a wave which in return developed their confidence, boosted self-esteem and made connections with other autism children.

344 nursing hours

Epilepsy WA has helped families rest easy by providing 344 Hours of Nursing Support, allowing families to rest and not be worried about overnight seizures.

853
participants

The Royal Flying Doctor Service aeromedically retrieved 853 children in need of critical care ensuring access to urgent medical attention and services.

2,769
hours

Hannah's House have supported families with 2,769 hours of in-home care for children with a complex or life limiting diagnosis.

476 music lessons

Thanks to the Australian Children's Music Foundation, 476 music lessons were delivered to 14 different locations across WA.

127 sensory storytelling sessions

Offering 127 sensory storytelling sessions, Sensorium Theatre have welcomed over 636 children with high needs to their Imagine Program.

1,482
participants

Nature Play launched the Talk N Walk app targeted at the dramatic decline in physical and mental health in teenage girls.

10,818
positive experiences

12-16 year old teens at Perth Children's Hospital, have reported 10,818 positive experiences with the Starlight Children's express room and Livewire program.

188
students

Ensuring no-one is left behind, WA Disabled Sports supported 188 children with disability across 14 schools, adapting equipment and programs to encourage participation of all abilities in school activities.

74,900
breakfasts

Ensuring no one starts the day with a hungry belly, Foodbank WA have provided 74,900 breakfasts to children across the State.



1,000
care packages

Helping families of neonatal children have the best start to life, Tiny Sparks delivered 1,000 care packages including essential and keepsake items.



215
swimming lessons

Superfins Learn to Swim program offered 215 swimming lessons for children living with complex and physically limiting disabilities.

1,257
riding sessions

Riding for the Disabled Carine supervised 1,257 hippotherapy and therapeutic riding sessions for 117 disabled, disadvantaged and vulnerable children.

16,250
crisis conversations

Lifeline WA counsellors have conducted 16,250 crisis conversations to support and prevent suicide and related outcomes in young people.

72 playgroups

Down Syndrome WA are bringing families together, offering 72 playgroups and a place for kids to be kids regardless of their diagnosis or ability level.

7,188
therapy hours

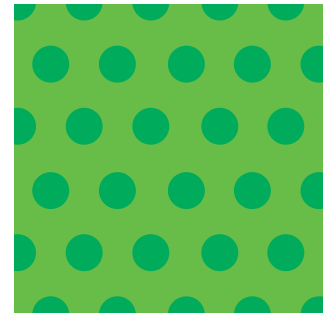
Thriving in Motion delivered 7,188 therapy hours to children with physical or emotional difficulties through an exercise program of fun and play.

6,691
dads and kids

The Fathering Project have brought together 6,691 dads and their children to bond through playgroups, BBQ breakfasts and movie nights.



Supporting life-changing research



Perron Institute

Changing the game

Analysing an extensive number of samples for osteosarcoma (bone cancer), the Perron Institute are now preparing a patent for one of the RNA-based therapeutics in the hope of treating osteosarcoma.

Lions Eye Institute

Access to clinical trials

With a comprehensive personalised medicine for children with genetic eye diseases, the Lions Eye Institute were able to identify two children who are eligible for clinical trials in Stargardt Disease and Usher Syndrome.



Telethon Kids Institute

Revolutionising care

There are so many diseases that currently don't have effective treatments or cures. The Telethon Kids Institute are targeting mitochondrial disease therapies and testing a new revolutionary patented technology targeting pathological mtDNA mutations which can be used for specific genetic treatments. If successful, this new treatment could eliminate or reduce the devastating symptoms of mitochondrial diseases and lead to pre-clinical models and a world-first clinical trial.

Telethon Kids Institute - Wesfarmers Centre for Vaccine and Infectious Disease.

Leading worldwide infectious diseases and vaccine research, the Telethon Kids Institute's Wesfarmers Centre for Vaccine and Infectious Disease have delivered exceptional results:

- Trialling new innovative needle-free technologies to assess the efficacy of new COVID-19 DNA Vaccines;
- Recruited 2,000 patients for the PATRIC Clinical Registry, targeting respiratory infections in children;
- On boarded 270 children for the Sore Throat Study, taking steps to find a vaccine for the bacteria that causes Strep A;
- Leading the paediatric arm of a world-first multi-centre, global trial looking at best ways to treat Staphylococcus aureus blood infection.



The Health Strides Foundation

Translating research

The Healthy Strides Foundation collected more than 3,693 data points which have immediately been integrated into clinical practice, evolving the care and therapies delivered in their early intervention therapy services.

Child and Adolescent Health Services

Best practice

Leading the world in best practice, Dr Britta Regli-von Ungern-Sternberg and her team of paediatric Anaesthesiologists at Perth Children's Hospital were able to demonstrate that video laryngoscopy should be the preferred and choice technique when neonates and infants are intubated changing international standards of care for our most vulnerable children.



Learn2Adult is designed to fill the gaps for young people aged 14-18 living with disability, to grow and become the best decision-makers for themselves that they can be. It will alleviate worry from parents, as they know their loved one is set up for life. Learn2Adult will provide a framework for families and young people in the area of supported decision-making.



Muscular Dystrophy WA

The Little Ones program supports children aged 0-6 with neuromuscular conditions and their families. It will provide psychosocial and wellbeing components, which when delivered together provide a holistic and integrated approach that complements their ongoing medical management. It allows earlier intervention in their condition journey and for them to participate in our children's social programs and support services at a younger age than normal, which leads to greater longer-term outcomes.



Ocean Heroes aims to improve the wellbeing of children on the autism spectrum and their families through surfing. Their regional events program is a unique opportunity for children with under-served needs to access a fun, supportive and free outdoor activity within their local community. Acquiring additional specialised surfboards will allow Ocean Heroes to accommodate more members of the autism community.



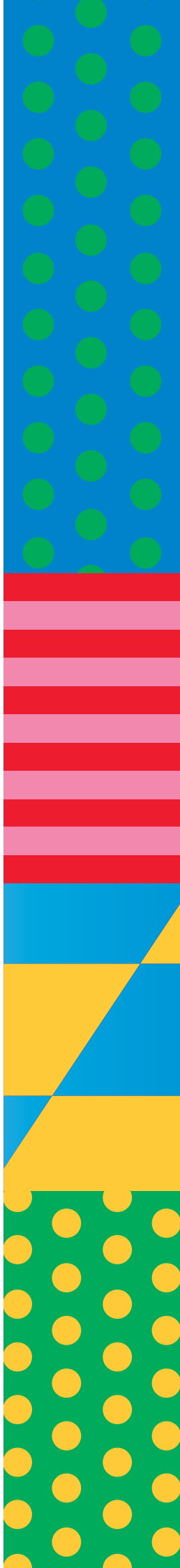
Researchers at Murdoch University are determining the true rates of polymicrobial and culture-negative sepsis in neonates, children and adults by retesting blood cultures analysed by PathWest using a more sensitive molecular test; supporting the Yawardani Jan-ga equine-assisted learning program to provide strengths-based support to Aboriginal children and young people in the Kimberley; and trial an innovative therapeutic strategy to 'switch' dangerous pro-inflammatory RAGE expression towards safer anti-inflammatory isoforms in a 'first-in-animal' sepsis trial in an emergency setting, an essential prerequisite to initiating human clinical trials.



Talk N Walk is a wellbeing program facilitated by an app, co-designed and piloted with more than 100 girls aged 11-14. Expansion and delivery of Talk N Walk as part of disability, education and community programming for at-risk youth will support the social connection and physical and mental health of participants.



The Nourishing Our Schools program tackles children's food insecurity both in schools and at home. Working alongside 70 disadvantaged schools across Perth, the program provides Food for Learning (fresh, nutritious food for a school's breakfast, lunch and cooking programs) and Food for Thriving (nourishing hampers to support vulnerable families).





The innovative Multiagency Investigation and Support Team model provides WA's only integrated response to those who have experienced child sexual abuse by co-locating all supports needed to reduce the impact of this trauma, including child and family advocates and psychologists. The Education, Employment and Training program aims to give young people aged 14-16 who are at risk of failing school the tools to create a successful future.



Perth Children's Hospital Foundation is the official and largest fundraiser of Perth Children's Hospital. Through the support of Telethon and the WA community, the Foundation fuels the fight on the frontline, to help sick children get well and stay well, by funding the most advanced equipment and technology, research, expertise and positive patient experiences.



Radio Lollipop has been bringing smiles to the faces of thousands of children in hospitals throughout WA for more than 36 years. Our model is simple and successful: volunteers provide care, comfort, play and entertainment to children across eight WA hospitals.



Researchers at Perron Institute for Neurological and Translational Science will aim to develop a novel disease-modifying treatment for patients suffering from spinal muscular atrophy and establish a local research initiative that builds capacity for transcranial magnetic stimulation treatment of mood disorders in WA youth.



The Vulnerable Infants' Program (VIP) is a no-charge clinical intervention and training program building positive mental health in vulnerable infants and their parents. VIP provides innovative multigenerational interventions with proven effectiveness that support foundational relationships between parents and their babies, reducing the risk of mental health issues in infancy.



Early brain development relies on the quality of a child's experiences in the first years of life and has a lasting impact on a child's ability to learn and succeed in school and life. Reach delivers a movement program for babies from birth, based on an understanding of sensori-motor development in relation to neurodevelopment. The program incorporates functional and transitional movements, locomotion, organic strength, balance and coordination.

Riding towards better health outcomes for WA kids

Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) Carine provides horse-related therapies for children of all ages and abilities to create better, brighter futures for WA families.

Parents Slavka and Victor always dreamed of having a baby girl. They welcomed Victoria's arrival with love and tears of joy. Then, at 14 days old, they received the news that their daughter was profoundly deaf in her right ear, followed by the diagnosis of spastic tripegia cerebral palsy.

Victoria's mother Slavka said: "Life with a child who has a disability at times can be full of grief. It's heartbreaking to see Victoria struggle and to watch her brother Michael fill the role of carer more often than big brother."

At RDA Carine, four-year-old Victoria undergoes a form of physical, occupational and speech therapy that develops and enhances neurological and physical functioning by channelling the horse's movement. This enhances Victoria's physical strength, cognitive abilities and quality of life.

"Victoria endures regular challenging therapies, but RDA Carine provides a meaningful experience that enhances her life and allows her to grow and thrive. The kindness we have received from RDA Carine has been beyond fantastic. With Telethon's support of the program, we hope to be part of it forever," Slavka said.

Telethon funding enables RDA Carine to extend its valuable equine therapy programs to support more children and enrich the lives of WA families.



Laughter the best medicine for WA kids

Hospitals can be intimidating for children – they are surrounded by unfamiliar people, smells and medical equipment. Since 2000, the Clown Doctors have transformed the hospital environment and supported the health and wellbeing of more than 400,000 children, families and staff.

In her preteens, Tia Scott was diagnosed with osteosarcoma. What started as a pain in her hip quickly turned into a whirlwind of scans, blood tests and medical examinations leading to one diagnosis: Tia had cancer. Doctors quickly realised that chemotherapy alone was not the solution and scheduled Tia for surgery. Tia's surgery was one of the biggest of its kind performed at Perth Children's Hospital.

Now 15 years old, Tia has experienced far more than any parent would wish for their child. But the Clown Doctors have been there for Tia every step of the way.

Tia said: "Being in hospital is hard. Being in hospital for the length of time I had to is horrible. However, the Clown Doctors always made me laugh and smile. Laughter really is the best medicine. Even if you're not in the mood to laugh, they are wonderful, caring people who are there to have a conversation."

Far from just "entertainment", the Telethon-funded Clown Doctors program uses the proven benefits of humour therapy, turning what can be a traumatic experience into something positive.





Rebound WA's programs help children and teens with physical disabilities to become more confident, make friends with peers and learn new skills through sport, recreation and social activities tailored to their needs. Rebound WA's programs also provide opportunities for families to join in the fun and develop valuable support networks.



Children with cancer and their siblings experience significant distress and anxiety during treatment and on return home after treatment finishes. Redkite provides specialist child counselling and music therapy that helps them to cope with the immediate and ongoing impacts of cancer, to ensure their best possible mental health and wellbeing.



RDA BrookValley Farm provides therapeutic equine-related activities to further the health and wellbeing of children and young people with physical and mental health challenges. A larger, specifically trained harness pony will enable RDA to extend the successful Wheelchair Carriage Program to accommodate increased numbers of clients.



Working with children living with physical and intellectual disabilities and mental health challenges, Riding for the Disabled Carine will be able to extend its reach to more children so they can access affordable Therapeutic Riding and Hippotherapy support, regardless of disability, race, religion or socio-economic status.



The Early Start Intervention Program provides life-changing therapy for children at risk of, or diagnosed with, rare disease who historically may have missed out on critical early therapies. The Auswim program seeks to nurture foundational skills to support participation in swimming and water safety awareness for autistic children.



Royal Flying Doctor Service
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Critically ill babies and children present some of the most challenging medical situations for Royal Flying Doctor Service doctors and nurses. The purchase of seven battery-operated Airvo 3 portable respiratory support device delivers warmed and humidified respiratory gases for babies and children across WA.

Transforming lives with digital technology

Every child in Western Australia can benefit from access to digital technology, but young people living in remote Aboriginal communities are often digitally isolated. The PhotoVoice project aims to create positive change by providing digital access to vulnerable children in the Kimberley and transforming their lives.

PhotoVoice is a community-based project that builds new skills in photography and storytelling for children to represent their views of their environment creatively. Children are encouraged to tell their stories, share what they consider meaningful to their wellbeing, and advocate for changes needed in their community.

During the project, children are given first-hand access to tools that can be used to inform and influence the community to prioritise their needs. This inclusive, collaborative and engaging project will improve school attendance, social connection, wellbeing and digital capability.

Parent Janine Mandijalu said: **“PhotoVoice is a creative platform to help my daughter, Jenarrah, tell her story and help others see the world through her eyes, using photography.”**

Telethon funding will support the PhotoVoice program to help disadvantaged and vulnerable children living in remote Aboriginal communities access digital technology, expand their horizons and thrive.



Giving hope to kids and families

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is a common neurodevelopmental condition that affects about five per cent of Western Australian children. For some young people, ADHD significantly impacts their home, academic, social and work environments. ADHD is associated with a significantly increased risk of mental health issues, including depression, self-harm and suicide ideation.

RADIANCE (Redefining ADHD Intervention and Care Enhancement) project hosted by Fiona Stanley Hospital aims to prevent self-harm and suicidality in children with ADHD. To do this, it evaluates how clinical services can best support young people and explores how the diagnosis of ADHD can improve their psychological and social wellbeing.

Parents who participated in previous projects to assess and treat ADHD and self-harm in children said that the advice, care and support they received was invaluable to their child and family.

One parent said: **“Declining mental health meant my son could not leave the house for months. His untreated ADHD impacted his education, connections, friendships and mental health. However, the prompt diagnosis, compassion and support he received through the project gave him and our family answers. The treatment he received through the project gave us hope, and my son can now live a more fulfilling life.”**

Telethon funding will support Fiona Stanley Hospital's RADIANCE project and help build better brighter futures for children with neuropsychiatric conditions.





The Mobile Magic Carpet is an award-winning interactive projection system designed to offer inclusive play, therapy and interaction for users of all abilities. The Mobile Magic Carpet projects specially designed movement responsive software applications onto horizontal surfaces. Children move over the image to engage with the projected content. An infrared camera detects movements and feeds the live real-time video image stream into apps so that users get an immediate response to their movement over the projected image.



The Imagine program will continue to deliver a high-quality, multi-sensory performing arts intervention program to schools, libraries and early years centres throughout WA, improving the wellbeing of children who are disadvantaged and marginalised as a result of disability.



The Children's Holiday Camps provide free overnight care for children with disability and complex needs, which offers valuable respite for their families and carers; uniquely, primary care is delivered by high school and university students. The program fosters inclusion and is a lifeline for vulnerable children in the Perth metropolitan and Kimberley regions who face challenges accessing critical health and wellbeing services.



Acquiring a regional fleet of FrameRunners will help SensesWA to establish a FrameRunning program for country WA kids. The program will assist in building an active lifestyle for children with a disability in regional WA and contribute to regular social engagement, promoting friendships, fun and fitness.



The Sparks Program supports young Aboriginal girls across WA to identify and pursue their "spark", an interest/passion that gives them purpose, direction and focus while they build self-esteem and learn to break shame. Sparks strengthens intrinsic motivation, initiative and engages participants with a support network of adults to appreciate, nurture and encourage them going forward.



The Telethon Holiday Makers Program provides a safe, inclusive space for autistic children aged 5-18 to make friends and try new and engaging activities. The program runs in Fremantle, Marangaroo and Rockingham and is facilitated by qualified professionals, who work to build participants' social skills, confidence and self-esteem whilst they have fun.



The Bod Pod will provide researchers an important tool to measure, record and track body composition of children at risk of early-onset metabolic disease through a comprehensive assessment of the efficacy of health and wellbeing interventions on the presence, ratio and distribution of fat versus lean mass.



The successful rollout of the E-PALS platform, measured objectively, has been a game changer in reconnecting at-risk children with their own dedicated Sports Challenge mentor (24x7) outside the school gate, to improve mental and physical health, and will be expanded to more needy communities.



Thriving Through Connection is a pilot program to support young people aged 11-17 impacted by family and domestic violence. It is a bespoke program tailored for each young person's needs and will include individual and group activities provided by a Youth Worker, focused on building their safety, capacity, resilience and wellbeing.



St John

The free First Aid Focus awareness program successfully teaches students critical lifesaving skills in an emergency whilst waiting for support and ambulance arrival. This application is to directly empower and support regional disadvantaged and vulnerable students to become first responders following in-person online teaching in remote schools.



Transforming health care for humanity

The AngelEye Camera System provides secure, live video streaming from Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and Special Care cots, allowing parents and other family members to connect with their vulnerable babies at any time of day, no matter where they are.



Livewire at Perth Children's Hospital supports the psychosocial and emotional wellbeing of young people living with serious, chronic and lifelong health conditions through a range of activities that promote creative expression, personal development and social connection. The Captain Starlight program at Perth Children's Hospital supports the wellbeing of hospitalised children and families through fun, entertainment, play and distraction.



The Telethon Superfins Learn to Swim Program will provide quality swimming instruction for school children with disabilities, to promote safety in and around water, to promote positive health and fitness outcomes for participants and to encourage children to learn the techniques involved in swimming, a sport for life.



Acquiring new sports wheelchairs will enable delivery of organised wheelchair sports for school children in the eastern suburbs, primarily in the City of Swan and Town of Bassendean. Participation rates for young people with a disability are low and most do not meet physical activity requirements, something Swans are looking to impact on in their Diversity, Inclusion and Equality Action Plan.



At Telethon Kids Institute, our vision is simple: happy, healthy kids. With top scientific minds and world-class facilities, we bring together researchers, community, practitioners, policy makers and funders who share our vision. Our researchers are searching for answers to the big issues in child health including the impact of COVID-19 on our kids and the extra challenges faced by Aboriginal kids and families. Because all kids deserve a healthy childhood.



The Fathering Project supports and engages fathers and father figures for the benefit of their children. Running Community Fathering Hubs, they support disadvantaged children; providing an opportunity to connect with their fathers through activities. They offer individualised support and strategies to connect with families and provide peer support to fathers of children with Neurodivergence to improve parenting and reduce distress.



The Katina Woodruff Children's Foundation, Inc.

The Inclusion Development for Refugee Children project aims to support 20 refugee/migrant children recently arrived in WA. Working with Beaconsfield Intensive English Centre, the Department of Education's Early Childhood Support Unit and referrals from families and schools, the foundation provides cultural and educational support to help children adjust to their new life in WA.



Telethon Speech & Hearing provides children aged 0-8 and their families affected by hearing, speech and/or language difficulties access to a suite of educational-based, diagnostic, therapy and support services under one roof. Children are supported through individual and group-based therapy while caregivers are empowered with the necessary skills to support their children at home.



The Clown Doctors program at Perth Children's Hospital benefits over 22,000 children and their families every year, calming at times of distress and bringing joy where it is needed but least expected.



The ORIGINS Project, a collaboration between Telethon Kids Institute and Joondalup Health Campus, is the largest study of its kind in Australia, following 10,000 children and their families over a decade. ORIGINS is collecting detailed information from pregnant women, their partners and babies on how a child's early environment and lifestyle influences their development to improve the health of the next generation through early diagnosis and intervention.



Raine Study researchers will recruit a new generation into the world's first pregnancy cohort study to investigate long-term causes of health and disease across multiple family generations. Graduate School of Education researchers will develop a game-based screening instrument to empower young children's voices on their wellbeing and support mental health early intervention.



Thriving provide inclusive, accessible and fun exercise programs that improve health outcomes of young people who experience challenges or barriers to participating in physical activity at school or in the community. Thriving at UWA is the flagship exercise program focusing on physical literacy, strength and conditioning and Move It for Mental Health is a community-based movement program for young people who are at risk of poor mental health.



The Type 1 Diabetes Family Centre is the go-to organisation for children with type 1 diabetes and their families. Recognising that type 1 can be tough at the best of times, but particularly during the teenage years, the Centre's LEAP Program will provide a range of mental health supports, diabetes education, peer support and online connection to ensure teens can live life to the fullest with type 1.



Purchasing therapeutic equipment for 25 children with disabilities and their families will provide the opportunity to develop skills that will support their participation and independence in the domains of sensory and emotional regulation, mealtimes, leisure and mobility.



tiny sparks wa

Tiny Sparks WA provides support, guidance and information for families with children born early or sick through programs such as the Developmental Playgroup, providing early intervention in a play-based setting, and Nurturing Regional Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) families, aimed at closing the gap for NICU graduate families living in rural, regional and remote settings of WA. The provision of NICU Packages provides essential items to support families during their unexpected NICU stay.



Kickability In Schools (KIS) delivers a football-based skills program to all Education Support schools in WA. Sessions include staff attending each school and taking children through a session tailored to children with disability. KIS aims to give participants the confidence to play sport either in a club, school or home setting.





Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

The WA Child Research Fund is co-funded by the Government of Western Australia and Telethon. It was established to support research that leads to better health outcomes for children and adolescents in WA, promote the translation of research findings into evidence-based health policy and practice and contribute to integrating research capability across universities, research institutes and health services by encouraging the development of research-policy-practice clusters.



FOOTBALL COMMISSION INC.

Starkick is an all-abilities football program for kids aged 5-17. Kids with disabilities are provided the support and resources they require to enable them to participate and have fun playing football in a community club environment.



women & infants
research foundation

Research studies conducted by the Women and Infants Research Foundation (WIRF) will be focused on improving the health and outcomes of WA neonates and infants from pregnancy to childhood. WIRF's researchers are pioneering a new era of preventative medicine, solving problems at the earliest stages and delivering the healthiest possible future for the next generation of WA families.

WADSA

WA Disabled Sports Association enhances the lives of kids with a disability through meaningful participation in sport and recreation. Ready Set Rec will enable 60 kids with severe and complex disabilities to build physical literacy and improve community engagement through modified activities, adaptive equipment and customised instruction. Adaptions for All uses a wide range of remote-control options to develop physical interactions and Eco Explorers utilises a customised conservation, adventure and nature app in conjunction with adaptive equipment to enhance the health and wellbeing of kids.



Wheels for Hope loans wheelchair-accessible vehicles to provide life-changing transport to a child with a disability to access medical and therapy appointments, school, and family and community outings.



Youth Focus provides timely support to vulnerable young people who are experiencing mental health challenges. This service aims to reduce the barriers young people face when seeking help for mental health issues by providing free and accessible professional counselling services in regional and metropolitan settings across WA.

Bringing wishes to life for WA kids

Telethon has supported Make-A-Wish Australia to grant wishes to children with critical illnesses since 2000. Each wish is as unique as the children who imagine them, from planning the ultimate day out with Spider-Man to building an outdoor adventure play area and having a tea party with Willy Wonka.

In 2023, Telethon will make 25 wishes come true for children in Western Australia. For everyone involved, the fulfilment of a wish has an immediate effect: it inspires, uplifts and empowers children with hope and joy when they need it most.

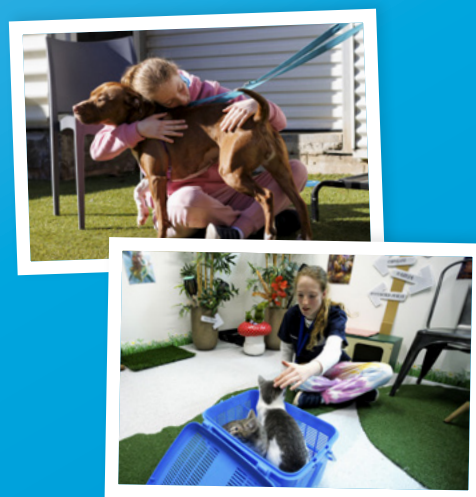
By the time Sahara could first walk and talk, her mum Tanya saw how greatly she connected with every kind of animal. Sahara's love for animals grew even stronger after she acquired a

brain injury two days before her 13th birthday. Sahara was in a coma for 13 days and was given little chance of survival. But after three months in hospital, she continued to beat the odds and, with therapy, regained the use of her legs, speech and the ability to eat and swallow.

Thanks to Make-A-Wish, Sahara's wish to spend time caring for and playing with rescue animals became a weeklong adventure for her and her mother. Flying from Perth to Melbourne, they ventured to animal shelters and fed animals, walked dogs, and attended foster animal consults and training sessions. Sahara was never without a furry friend nearby.

Tanya said: "A wish like this gives a child something to look forward to. Since we first got the wish approved, Sahara hasn't stopped talking about it!"

Telethon's funding enables Make-A-Wish to continue to give hope, strength and joy to WA children with life-threatening illnesses.



Starkick helping WA children shine

Since 2015, the WA Football Commission's Starkick all-abilities football program has created incredible opportunities for children in Western Australia.

Starkick removes the barriers to playing footy to support children of all abilities to join a club, be physically active, mark, handball, and kick extraordinary goals when it comes to reaching their full potential.

At six months old, Taj Deluca suffered a cardiac arrest, resulting in an acquired hypoxic brain injury leading to quadriplegic cerebral palsy. His parents, Danica and Matt, never imagined that eight years later Taj would be playing footy.

Off the field, Taj requires a high level of care. He undergoes

regular therapy, experiences chronic pain and depends on his family for support with all daily tasks. On the field is Taj's chance to shine. He has the opportunity to be independent and connect with teammates, laugh and fulfil his dream of playing his favourite sport.

Taj's mother Danica said: "Until Taj joined Starkick, we had never seen him so happy. Playing footy has been his dream and he is living it. For Taj, life is hard, but being able to play the sport he loves is his source of happiness."

Telethon is proud to support Starkick enabling children of all abilities the opportunity to participate in football in a community environment.



Our Trustees



Richard Goyder AO
Chairman

Richard is the former chief executive and managing director of Wesfarmers, a top-10 Australian company. He is the current chairman of the Australian Football League, the West Australian Symphony Orchestra, Qantas Airways and Woodside Energy. He was made an Officer of the Order of Australia for distinguished service to business, the arts and indigenous programs and was named 2021 West Australian of the Year for his commitment to community and philanthropy.



Kerry Stokes AC
Trustee

Kerry is chairman of the Seven Network and Australian Capital Equity, which has interests in media and entertainment, resources, energy, property, pastoral and mining. He is chairman and fellow for the Council for the Australian War Memorial and, along with many awards, has received Australia's highest honour, the Companion of the Order of Australia, in recognition of his contributions to business and philanthropy.



Christine Simpson Stokes AM
Trustee

Christine has extensive experience in business management and media, is a philanthropist and supporter of the arts. She is a director of Australian Capital Equity and an ambassador for Legacy Australia. A former TV news presenter, Christine is also a board member of the government's funding and advisory body The Australian Council for the Arts.



Maryna Fewster
Trustee

Maryna is the chief executive of Seven West Media WA and was previously the company's chief operating officer. Prior to joining Seven West Media, she was chief operating officer of iiNet and held senior executive roles in the telecommunications sector in Australia and New Zealand for more than two decades. Maryna is a non-executive director of Crown Resorts Perth and Celebrate WA.



Anthony De Ceglie
Trustee

Anthony De Ceglie is the Editor in Chief of West Australian Newspapers. Before taking up this role in 2019, he was the deputy editor of The Daily Telegraph in Sydney and spent time on secondment to New York as part of News Corp's international development program. He has won multiple Walkley Awards and his first jobs were at rural newspapers in Collie and Mandurah before joining The Sunday Times and PerthNow where he was deputy editor.



Tim Roberts
Trustee

Tim is the managing director of the Warburton Group, which oversees a diverse portfolio of investments in property, infrastructure, aquaculture, aviation, agriculture and healthcare. Formerly an executive director of construction company Multiplex, Tim is also the operator of the Perth Jet Centre, a non-executive director of mining company Mineral Resources, a board member for Crown Resorts Perth and patron of the Perth Symphony Orchestra.



Bill Beament
Trustee

Bill is a mining engineer with more than 25 years' experience in the resources sector and is managing director at Develop. He is a past chairman of the Western Australian School of Mines Alumni Patrons Group and former executive chair of Northern Star. He has been named CEO of the Year by the Australian Financial Review and Pinnacle Awards' Business Leader of the Year (WA).



Tonya McCusker AM
Trustee

Tonya is a director and administrator of the McCusker Charitable Foundation, working closely with more than 100 charities. She is also an advisory board member of the McCusker Centre for Citizenship and patron of several other organisations. Tonya has a law degree, a postgraduate diploma in management and was a former dancer with the Australian Ballet Company.



Nick Stagg
Trustee

Nick is a co-founder and legal practice director of Perth boutique law firm Steedman Stagg Lawyers, where he works in commercial litigation and dispute resolution. He has almost 25 years' experience managing large-scale legal affairs for media organisations, mining companies, statutory corporations, politicians, company directors, business people and individuals. A former journalist with The West Australian, he specialises in defamation, freedom of information and publication laws.



Guy Houston
Trustee

Guy is an experienced former journalist and public sector professional who currently works as an adviser at Australian Capital Equity. Prior to his current role, Guy was chief of staff to Mark McGowan for nine years, including the last four while in government. With a background in journalism, corporate communications in the resource sector and having also advised previous premiers Geoff Gallop and Alan Carpenter, Guy brings a wealth of experience, insights, and connections across the private and public sectors in WA and Australia.

Thank you to all our Partners

The record-breaking Telethon fundraising total was made possible by the generosity of everyone in WA. Below is a list of some of our generous partners.

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Winning Appliances

Telethon exists because of our grassroots community

Performing an act of kindness gives us a warm, glowing feeling that can last the entire day. And when we perform an act of charity – such as putting a gold coin in a collection box, taking part in a fundraising challenge, or hosting a bake sale – that feel-good factor is heightened even further.

We are forever grateful for the many ways our community fundraisers and school ambassadors support and contribute to Telethon.





"It's all part of our heritage, from the first Telethon to now ... it's all about kids helping kids."

- Kerry Stokes AC



Telethon Weekend 2022 Highlights

The spirit of WA was on show as Telethon weekend broke another record last year. The record figure meant the total tally raised over the past 55 years is now more than \$500 million.

The 26-hour telecast had hours of entertainment and enjoyable moments, from lip sync battles and pie faces to the kids takeover and a special visit to Perth Children's Hospital.

The streets of the Perth CBD also came to life on Sunday, full of vibrant family fun that not even a downpour could dampen the spirits. The Telethon Family Festival took over the city, shutting down Wellington Street right up to Yagan Square.







If you would like to learn more about Telethon and how you can get involved, please contact the Telethon Team.

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