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THIS SPECIAL BENEFICIARIES WRAP HAS BEEN ILLUSTRATED BY KIDS FROM SIX TELETHON AMBASSADOR SCHOOLS WHO WERE ASKED TO DRAW EXAMPLES OF KINDNESS

telethon 7

**INSIDE ALBANESE REVEALS WORDING OF THE VOICE REFERENDUM**

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**The West Australian**  
telethon 7

SPECIAL 16-PAGE WRAP WITH DRAWINGS OF KINDNESS BY TELETHON AMBASSADOR SCHOOLS!

HOW TELETHON'S 2022 DONATIONS ARE BEING SPENT

Illustrations: Kina Patel, Bleachley Park Primary School and Hadley, Poynter Primary School.



**Proudly supporting Telethon**

\$5 million donated over 10 years to help WA kids in need

Thanks to the support of Woolworths team and customers we proudly presented Telethon 2022 with a cheque for \$736,903.72.

Since 2013 you have helped us raise more than \$5 million for Telethon to help kids across Western Australia.



**Proudly supporting Telethon to help WA kids in need.**

Thank you to our customers and team members who dug deep once again and raised \$600,000 in 2022 to help sick kids from across the state.

telethon 7 | coles

# It's bigger than ever!

## 107 reasons to be proud

JOHN FLINT

A record 107 organisations, charities and good causes will benefit this year from the generosity of West Australians who donated and raised money for Telethon.

The beneficiaries will deliver life-changing programs, buy much needed equipment and carry out vital medical research into childhood diseases to ensure a better life for WA children now and in the future.

Last October's record-breaking Telethon total of \$71.4 million was almost \$10m more than the previous year's windfall — itself a record.

Last year's epic feat also led to the charity passing the \$500m milestone in cumulative funds raised since Telethon was established in 1968.

Telethon Trust chairman Richard Goyder AO said the staggering amount was a cause for all West Aussies to "rejoice".

He said last year's achievement would fund 54 medical research projects, 127 programs and critical services and 548 pieces of vital equipment.

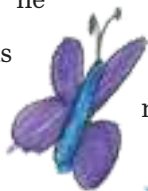
"The challenge is how do we make sure we continue that because the needs are always more than we can satisfy," he said.

He acknowledged that many West Australians were doing it tough, with cost-of-living increases and soaring mortgage rates, but he held no concerns about the ongoing generosity of the community.

"We've seen in the last few years, the contributions we get from individuals growing every year, and the numbers of people contributing, growing," he said.

Mr Goyder said trust was at the heart of the community's devotion to Telethon.

"Telethon is a trusted



Our Telethon front page last year.

brand. People trust us with their money and feel that it will be spent wisely for the benefit of WA kids," he said.

He said most West Aussies knew someone who had benefited from Telethon in the past.

"I think we all put ourselves in the position of 'what if it was us,'" he said.

"And therefore how can we help? I reckon it makes us as a community much stronger.

"We're building a philanthropic culture amongst our kids as well. We value \$1 from any source, and we're committed to ensuring that all the money that's raised goes to helping the kids of WA."

The impact of Telethon on the wellbeing of children extends beyond WA and Australia.

"Some of the medical research that Fiona Stanley has done and other people have done over the years have impacted the lives of kids around the world, because of Telethon," he said.

Mr Goyder, who was the 2021 Western Australian of the Year, praised the vision of Seven West Media chairman and Telethon Trustee Kerry Stokes AC. He also recognised the incredible contributions from the State's business sector.



Hannah Buitendag, Alex Browne and Ewan Browne with Epilepsy WA chief Emma Buitendag and nurse Aoife Browne. Pic: Jackson Flindell

## THROWING THE BOOK AT EPILEPSY

KELLIE BALAAAM

For 15-year-old Alex Browne, living with epilepsy since she was a toddler has been difficult but she says she won't let her diagnosis define her.

The teenager hopes other kids can also learn to realise that even though they have a condition which affects everyday life, their dreams could still be achieved.

That's why Telethon is supporting Epilepsy WA, enabling it to work on a children's online library where inspirational and famous faces can read books to children about epilepsy, educating them about their condition, its impacts and how to manage

fear around seizures. It also provides loan seizure-alert devices and a dedicated full-time epilepsy support nurse to children and families throughout the State.

Epilepsy, a neurological disorder in which brain activity becomes abnormal, causing seizures and sometimes loss of awareness, affects one in 200 children.

Alex said she wished technology such as seizure-alert devices was available to her family when she started experiencing seizures as a two-year-old before her diagnosis at the age of five. "Because when I was younger I was having seizures

more frequently, Mum and Dad were finding it hard trying to watch me while doing other stuff," she said.

An avid swimmer and Surf Life Saving WA volunteer, Alex doesn't let epilepsy define her or stop her from doing what she loves most.

Epilepsy WA chief executive Emma Buitendag said the condition was still stigmatised and often misunderstood.

Aussie Paralympic swimmer and Medal of the Order of Australia recipient Katrina Porter will be one of the faces to read stories to youngsters with epilepsy and their siblings. The stories can be accessed free online.



PROUD TO CELEBRATE  
12 YEARS AS  
A MILLION  
DOLLAR PARTNER

For the past twelve years, the Crown Resorts Foundation is proud to have been a million dollar partner to Telethon.

As a proud partner, we want to thank the Telethon team, our employee volunteers as well as the Western Australian community who have all helped contribute to Telethon's impact in Western Australia.





**Summer Walker and her children Remi, 18 months, and Louie, 3.**

**INSET: Dr Kristina Rueter.**

Pictures: Jackson Flindell



# Food for thought in war on childhood allergies

## New dietary supplements for mums to be put to the test

### GABRIELLE BECERRA MELLET

A medical trial investigating if a simple dietary supplement could prevent childhood allergies before they start has received a welcome boost from Telethon.

Perth Children's Hospital immunology consultant and clinical researcher Dr Kristina Rueter said finding prevention strategies was crucial, with a significant rise of allergic diseases worldwide.

The findings are of particular importance to Australia, where one in five children is affected by allergic diseases.

"Australia is considered to be the allergy capital of the world," Dr Rueter said.

The SYMBA study will find

if allergies and life-threatening reactions such as anaphylaxis can be avoided through a non-digestible dietary fibre supplement taken during pregnancy, which is potentially a catalyst to the growth of "good" bacteria.

If successful, the solution would be an "affordable and easy" prevention strategy which could be incorporated into dietary supplements for pregnant women.

More than 600 women and their babies are taking part in the study, in which women take a study powder from 18 weeks of gestation to six months after birth.

The Telethon funding will now enable children to be fol-

lowed up when they are three years old, which Dr Rueter said was critical to the study as children often developed allergies as they grew older.

"Respiratory allergies such as hay fever and asthma present later," she said.

For Dr Rueter, her passion is personal: her son developed severe eczema when he was only two months old.

When he was six months old, he ate hard-boiled eggs, having never shown previous signs of aversion.

"He was blown up like a balloon and he had a breathing problem," Dr

Rueter said. As a paediatric emergency specialist, she said she had seen the most acute presentations of severe allergic reactions.

"Often, parents who did not know before that their child was allergic turn up in ED with their child having anaphylaxis, which is a potentially life-threatening allergic reaction," she said.



SYMBA study research assistant and mother-of-two Summer Allen said after seeing some of the worst cases of childhood allergies in her work,

she decided to enrol herself. "I'm seeing all the allergies coming through," she said.

"It's quite bad."

Ms Allen also has a family history of allergies, including hay fever and eczema.

Her three-year-old son Louie has now completed his three-year allergy testing, with his results yet to be studied by the SYMBA team.

Dr Rueter said she was optimistic for the trial and hoped if it was successful, the prebiotic would be included in health advice for pregnant women.

"It would be wonderful if the intervention with prebiotics in pregnancy could reduce the development and rate of allergic diseases in West Australian children," she said.



## Now that's a great reception for Radio Lollipop boost

### CLAIRE SADLER

A hospital visit can be scary but funding for one of the newest Telethon beneficiaries, Radio Lollipop, is helping sick kids smile even brighter.

While they can't say no to taking their medicine or receiving treatment, children are able to request their favourite songs, win prizes and hear their own voices on the radio.

Money from Telethon will help keep the smiles coming with funds being funnelled into their broadcast service and lots of fun items for the kids, including stationery, games and craft giveaway packs.

Radio Lollipop WA chair Tony

Williamson said when he heard that the charity was a new Telethon beneficiary he got emotional. "I had a tear in my eye when we got the letter saying we got funding because we are one of those charities that don't actually ask for money from a lot of people," he said.

"I was so happy that as an organisation we can actually have a bit of breathing space to do what we do best and that's make these kids smile."

Radio Lollipop WA volunteers have been taking children's



**Radio volunteers Casey Cooper, Nathan Taylor and Rose Wheatley.**

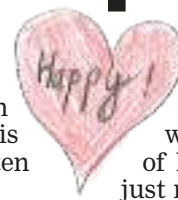
minds off their hospital stays for more than 36 years. The activities give the youngsters a sense

of normality in the hospital day, which in other respects is strange and often scary.

Mr Williamson said it not only benefited the sick child but also the whole family.

"The biggest thing I notice when the kid has a big smile you look over at the parents and you can actually see the relief on their faces," he said.

"They've been told something is wrong with their kid and don't know what the future holds but when their child is smiling and laughing you can just see the



heavy lifting come off their shoulders. If we can take their mind off what's going on for a couple of hours or even 10 minutes I just really think it adds a bit of value to what we're doing."

Volunteer Nathan Taylor said it felt good to bring a little bit of joy to a child's hospital stay.

"We get to be the nice guy going into a kid's room — for the entire day they've had doctors coming in with weird words that they don't know, nurses bring in medications, and needles that are scary," he said.

"It's really lovely to be able to bring that sense of normalcy to a child's day when the rest of their day can be bad."



Make-A-Wish child Sahara Stein. Pictures: Arnaud Domange

# IT'S PAWFECT WHEN WISHES COME TRUE

## Animal-loving teen beats the odds

### BETHANY HIATT

Sahara Stein's family were told it was unlikely she would ever walk or talk again when she acquired a brain injury just before her 13th birthday. But with the help of her animal friends, and a lot of hard work in the past three years, Sahara, 16, has proven those predictions wrong. The WA teen has always been an animal lover — with a family home filled with rescue pets — so it's hardly surprising that when she was given a

chance by Telethon beneficiary Make-A-Wish to have a wish come true, she chose to spend time with rescue dogs and cats at animal shelters. "They call her the miracle child. They told me she wouldn't survive and that if she did, I would wish she hadn't," her mother Tanya said. "She had an existing bowel condition and a tube and button to help flush, which blocked one night. "When it unblocked, too much fluid went through and it caused her to go into cardiac arrest, and all her organs shut down.

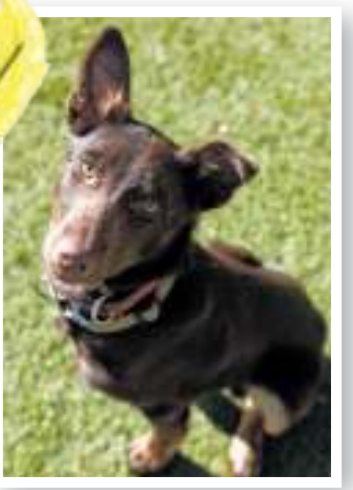
"It took 45 minutes for a heart-beat to come back. She was without oxygen for quite a long time. "She was in a coma for 13 days before she woke up — it was very scary." To fulfil her wish, Sahara and her mum flew from Perth to Melbourne, where they spent a week visiting animals at The Lost Dogs' Home and Lort Smith Animal Hospital. Jess Wild, from The Lost Dogs' Home, was blown away by Sahara's desire to help animals despite her own health struggles. "I think the inspiration is that this is what she chose



She's taken away a bigger love for animals.

### Jennifer Fleming

come true this year.



for her Make-A-Wish," she said. "When I first found out she had chosen to spend her time at The Lost Dogs' Home, it honestly just made me feel so warm that someone going through their own journey has decided to help other creatures. "She's chosen to make a difference in the lives of some of the animals we look after. And I think that's just beautiful and should be celebrated." At Lort Smith, chief executive Jennifer Fleming said given her family's long history with res-

cue animals, the animal hospital was honoured to be involved in granting Sahara's wish. A room was set aside for Sahara to help decorate with an enchanted forest theme and as a place where she could care for and play with three rescue kittens. As part of her wish, Sahara fed kittens and puppies, took part in dog-walking and training sessions, and attended foster animal consultation. "She's taken away an even bigger love for animals, and a better idea of what direction she wants to head in," Tanya said. "A wish like this gives a child something to look forward to — since we first got the wish approved, she's never stopped talking about it." Make-A-Wish makes the inspirational wishes of children with critical illnesses a reality, to empower them with hope and joy when they need it most. In WA there are 98 active wishes on the charity's books, with Telethon's support a key to making up to 25 of those wishes

## We never adjust our focus.

At Perth Children's Hospital Foundation, all of our attention goes towards helping children like young Alex to get well and stay well.

As the hospital's largest private funder, we have a close understanding of what the clinicians, researchers and families need to ensure we make a tangible impact where it counts most.

It's this closeness which enables the Foundation to provide sick children with access to world-class care through equipment and technology, research, expertise, and positive patient experiences.

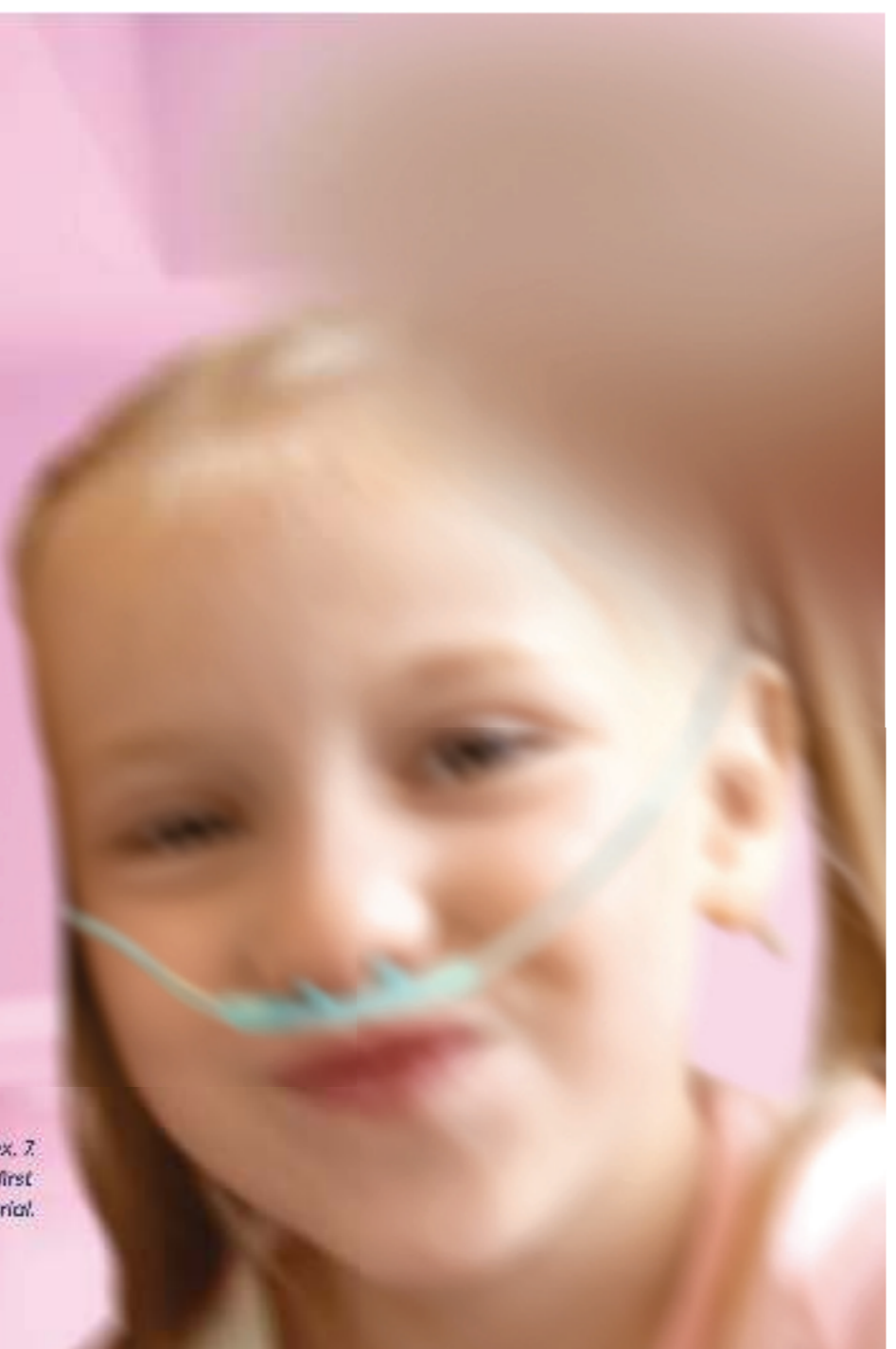
Our focus is always healthier, happier kids. Visit [pchf.org.au/donate](http://pchf.org.au/donate)



Scan to donate.



Alex, 7  
Taken after watching my first YouTube photography tutorial.



## EVERYONE HAS A SUPERPOWER. JACK'S IS DETERMINATION

At 16, Jack was diagnosed with brain cancer and told he would never walk again. Thanks to the incredible team at Healthy Strides Foundation, Jack's now back on his feet and a valued member of our Finance team.

MinRes is proud to support the many Telethon beneficiaries, like Healthy Strides, that are helping young West Aussies to unleash their superpowers.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT JACK'S STORY AT: [MINERALRESOURCES.COM.AU/JACKS-STORY](http://MINERALRESOURCES.COM.AU/JACKS-STORY)





# Fun is about to kick off to a new level

## Even more kids set to join the Starkick footy program

**KELLIE BALAAM**

All-abilities football program Starkick has changed the lives of hundreds of WA kids and their families — and is set to change a lot more thanks to Telethon.

The volunteer-run program allows children aged five to 17 living with disability to join a football environment with the support and resources needed for them to be accepted into a fun sporting community.

This is reflected in Starkick's mantra: "If you want to play, we will find a way."

Perth mother Danica Deluca knows just how special the program is for her eight-year-old son Taj, who has been diagnosed with quadriplegic cerebral palsy.

Young Taj loves football and before Starkick, he enjoyed commentating and watching the game.

"Once we found out about the program, he started to be involved as a player. He uses a wheelchair but he's still totally involved," Ms Deluca said.

"This is the first activity Taj has been involved in that is not therapy or school-related.

"This is for fun and it's enabled him to be part of community not in the way of a therapy session but having fun.



"It's opened his eyes that you can play sports in a wheelchair, you don't have to settle just watching them. I've never seen him happier then when he's on the field playing."

Starkick co-ordinator Rob Geersen said with Telethon on board, the program was about to get bigger and better.

"It's a huge change for what we will be able to deliver into community," he said.

"Up until now the program was 100 per cent volunteer-run, there has been no funding, just the community building and slowly driving this. So with Telethon coming on board it will let us put resources in place to deliver and grow this across the State."

So far there are several teams in the metro area, Peel and South West regions, with one team in the Great Southern and one in the Pilbara.

Mr Geersen, whose son is also involved in the program, said having a disability wasn't defined by a postcode. "We're looking to bring people together and provide support so every child can play and be supported in football," he said.

Starkick participant Taj, 8, is loving his footy.



# A feed before surgery? That's something to chew on!

**CLAIRE SADLER**

For Lliana Potts, seeing her two-year-old son not understand why she can't feed him before a surgery almost feels cruel.

Little Caelan has endured four surgeries in his short life and has more ahead due to Pierre Robin sequence, a congenital condition which left him with a smaller jaw and feeding and breathing issues.

Mrs Potts said every different time he had to fast had been challenging.

"Fasting is difficult for adults so it's even worse for children," she said.

"The main thing is he just doesn't understand why we're not feeding him — he keeps asking for food and can't grasp the fact he needs to fast for surgery. "It just makes him so upset — it feels almost cruel."

With more surgeries store for Caelan in future, Mrs Potts said she would appreciate if the pre-procedure process was better.

She said it would also make it easier on hospital staff if the children they prepared for surgery were in a happier mood.

"All of the doctors, nurses, being in a hospital — all of those extra added on things on top of not being able to eat it makes it

so much harder for the kids," Mrs Potts said.

"If they were in a better mood it would probably also be easier for having their anaesthetic because they're more compliant with everything."

A new preclinical trial, funded by Telethon, is looking to fix this issue by developing an innovative chewable tablet to help young children prepare for surgery more comfortably.

The tablet would allow children the sensa-

tion of having consumed solid food without interfering with fasting.

Perioperative medicine team member David Sommerfield said this would mean less distress before surgery and an easier recovery afterwards.

"It's often hard particularly for little kids who don't really understand and they often get very angry at us — the little chewable tablets will be a good substitute for kids," he said.

"It's also shown

to reduce their risk of hypertension and low blood sugar at the start of an anaesthetic, which is always useful and they also would wake up better.

"It'll be a win-win if we can get this product across the line."

UWA pharmacy research fellow Okhee Yoo said nothing like this tablet had been produced before.

"This is a revolutionary pre-procedural tablet," she said.

"It would provide the satisfaction of solid food to young fasting patients, while keeping them safe from aspiration by strictly following international anaesthesia fasting guidelines."



# Trapeze does it for star Olivia

CLAIRE SADLER

When Olivia Riley was a Little Telethon Star back in 2017, her ultimate goal was to do the ballet and gymnastics that once came so easily to her.

The 15-year-old lives with ataxia, which is a brain injury she acquired after complex surgery to remove a benign brain tumour. Surgery removed the tumour but Olivia's motor skills were damaged, meaning she had to learn to walk and talk again.

Seven years on, she's flying on the trapeze through Circus WA's All Abilities training program.



"I felt my friends were all doing cool stuff and thought I couldn't do it so I was bit sad, but now I can do it," said Olivia, pictured.

"I'm doing something cool that my friends can't do and making them jealous."

The program includes weekly circus classes, specialist workshops in choreography for diverse body types and performance through clown and physical theatre.

Children and youths are able to do the program for free through funding from Telethon.

Circus WA artistic director Jo Smith said it allows kids and teens living with disability to imagine more and dream beyond society's determination of their limitations.

"All the exercise they do is therapised and this is not therapy," she said.

"It's great for the body and the mind but we don't ever talk about therapy — it's all about play."

The training year has culminated in a production called be'spoke, which will be on at the State Theatre Centre.

Olivia will perform alongside her peers Arlo Corfield and Belle Butler.

"Olivia showed us that she had this immense physical strength but also a spiritual strength that gives her a determination to achieve," Ms Smith said.



# House of love and family support

## In-home respite care and playtime boost for those in most need of help

CLAIRE SADLER

Little Everleigh Buttigieg has needed around-the-clock care all of her life due to an extremely rare disorder.

The 14-month-old suffers from WOREE syndrome, a neurodevelopmental disorder that causes complexities including constant seizures, global development delay and needing to be tube fed.

With only 130 documented cases worldwide and fewer than 10 in Australia, her mother Stacy Buttigieg didn't know if there would be services specialised to Everleigh's needs.

However, Hannah's House has offered everything Mrs Buttigieg could have hoped for and more.

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.

Through the help of Telethon, the organisation has been able to get funding for its in-home respite care and the playtime program.

The money allows Hannah's House to continue to provide care in the comfort and safety of the child's home as well as give children and families an opportunity to engage in safe and accessible play.

For Everleigh it means she's able to go to playgroup, and do art and music therapy and it

secures the availability of a respite support worker.

Mrs Buttigieg said Hannah's House has enabled Everleigh to join community activities in a safe environment that is tailored for her.

"Everleigh can't go to mainstream daycare because she requires one-on-one care 24/7," she said.

"This lets us go to a safe place that she can participate and interact with other children but also knowing that the workers are trained.

"In the case of an emergency I know I'd have people there to assist us."

The charity even assists with getting families to appointments and events, as just leaving the home with

a child that has complex needs can be a two-person job.

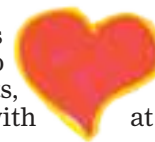
Hannah's House not only is beneficial for the child but also for the whole family.

Caring for a child with ongoing complex requires parents to place personal needs aside to focus on their child's needs.

This is often detrimental on the parents' wellbeing and can also impact the care of the child and the whole family.

"It's always nice to get out of the house because it's quite difficult to get out with Everleigh — I can't travel with her in the car by myself," Mrs Buttigieg said.

"It means that I get to interact with other parents and not just be stuck at home all the time."



# Realise your abilities

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EMERALD, NORTH COTTESLOE PRIMARY SCHOOL



LOUIS, NORTH COTTESLOE PRIMARY SCHOOL



SAMANTHA, ANNE HAMERSLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

# THE ART OF KINDNESS

## Students put down on paper what spirit of giving means to them

**DARYNA ZADVIRNA**

For 11-year-old Kina Patel, it is important to be kind to everyone.

The Bletchley Park Primary School student is among dozens of children across six Perth schools who took part in a special project for this year's Telethon beneficiaries edition of The West Australian.

The children were asked to draw what kindness meant to them as a design for the front page.

"My picture is about showing kindness, no matter who the person is," Kina, whose drawing appears today on Page 1, said.

For eight-year-old Praise, who attends the same school, it meant "being compassionate, nice and caring to each other".

The 107 beneficiaries of Telethon 2022 are set to be announced on Friday morning during the Giving Ceremony breakfast.

The theme of the day is kindness — it's the common thread that links the Telethon beneficiaries together in their mission to

improve the health and wellbeing of WA children.

Whether it be school fundraisers or children using their pocket money for donations, kindness and generosity is what drives the success of WA's favourite children's charity event.

Bletchley Park art teacher Amanda Bryant said her students at the Southern River school were excited to get involved with the front-page design.

"We have a diverse range of students from different cultural, linguistic and ethnic backgrounds who all show kindness every day," she said.

"I love watching them support one another and stand together as a caring community. Many of our children have had positive experiences with Perth Children's Hospital and were so pleased to contribute."

Christ the King School students were also asked to put their colouring pencils to paper. Some also helped in making paper

flowers for centrepieces set to be used at the Giving Ceremony breakfast.

The Catholic school in Beaconsfield runs a Special Needs Learning Support Centre where many of their students use services that are supported by Telethon and its beneficiaries.

"To show kindness means to do something for someone else even though you don't want to do it," Year 6 student Saoirse said.

"Or to warm up someone's heart."

For Jasmine, whose drawing was also featured, it meant being friendly, helpful and including others if they are left out.

Nine-year-old student Zach

and Indi from North Cottesloe Primary School decided to draw a superhero as part of the project.

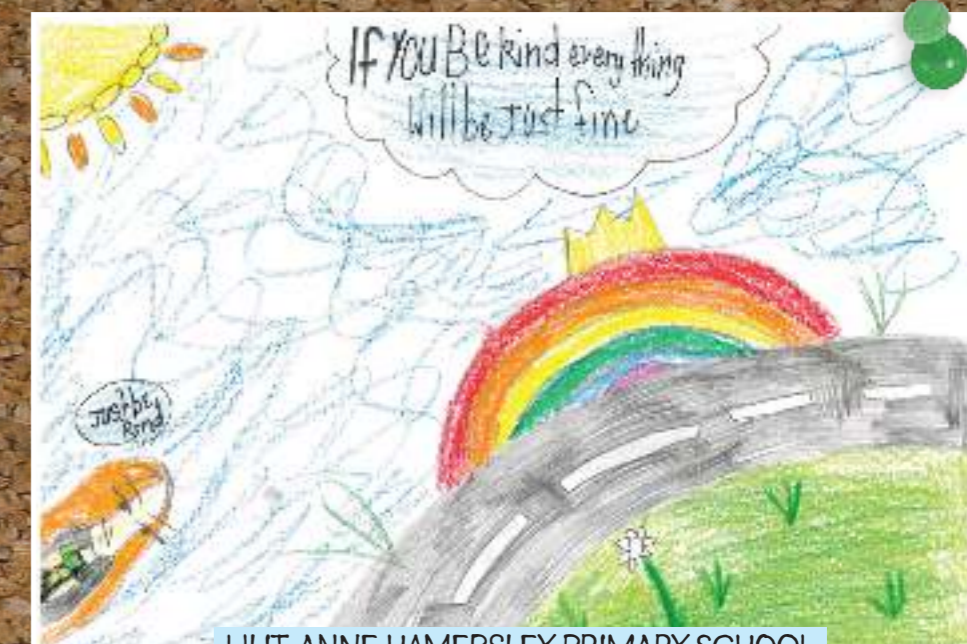
"We drew kindness superheroes because kindness is a superpower that not just me and you have, it's a superpower that everyone has," Zach said.

"If you show this kindness enough, you're a superhero," Indi added.

Art specialist teacher Stephanie Matthews said care was one of the values students at North Cottesloe were taught to practise.

"The children loved creating their superheroes which reflect the Telethon messages of care, kindness and love," he said.

"The North Cottesloe Primary School community proudly supports Telethon through its Pyjama Day for Telethon fundraiser each year."



LILITH, ANNE HAMERSLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL



TYLER, NORTH COTTESLOE PRIMARY SCHOOL



MAGGIE, NORTH COTTESLOE PRIMARY SCHOOL



HADLEY, POYNTER PRIMARY SCHOOL



NAVAYAH, ANNE HAMERSLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL



JASMINE, CHRIST THE KING PRIMARY SCHOOL



ISABELLE, ANNE HAMERSLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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**We are proud to help the children of this great state through Telethon.**

Like generations of West Aussies, the Hancock Group of companies have grown up seeing the enormous impact Telethon has on the lives of WA children. From Perth to the Pilbara, thank you to our team members who took up the challenge in 2022 to help raise \$3M for Telethon.

[royhill.com.au](http://royhill.com.au) HANCOCK PROSPECTING **ROY HILL**



# Help now just a click away

## Record demand for Lifeline's digital crisis support service



**DARYNA ZADVIRNA**

Asking for help can be tough. Finding the time can be harder.

And picking up the phone to do so may be particularly daunting, especially if you are young and mentally vulnerable.

Sometimes a simple text can save a life.

That's what volunteers at Lifeline's Digital Crisis Support, Text and Online Chat service have found since it was launched, with Telethon's help 18 months ago.

Between the COVID-19 pandemic and the rising cost of liv-

ing, the demand for mental health support has hit record highs recently but Lifeline has risen to the task.

WA chief operations officer Natalie Mackiewicz said the vital service connected young people to supporters in times of crisis.

It is also a good option for people with speaking or hearing difficulties and may be preferred by high-risk community members, including those suffering domestic violence.

"It allows young people — who we

know may not always reach out for help using traditional options — to connect with a crisis supporter via text or online chat," Ms Mackiewicz said.

"So they're communicating in a way that suits them best at a time that suits them best."

Record numbers of people have been reaching out for help since the digital service was launched, with half of them being under 25. About half of those were under 16.

"We have very, very young people (reaching out for help)," Ms Mackiewicz said.

"If they can text, they can con-

tact us and they do. We know that suicide is the leading cause of death among Australians aged between 15 and 24 and in Western Australia, the suicide rate is higher than the national average."

Ms Mackiewicz said there were many reasons why children and young people may seek support, including friendship difficulties at school, problems at home or feeling like they don't fit in.

"We know that all of those things that affect any of us in society also affect young people," she said.

"So it's really important that we have crisis supporters who are available to talk with our young people whenever they need to talk."

Ms Mackiewicz said the positive feedback Lifeline WA has received from those using the service has consolidated how vital it is for the community.

"We're so grateful to Telethon for supporting Lifeline WA with this grant," she said. "Together we're making a difference in the WA community."

**Lifeline: 13 11 14**



**Bully Zero facilitators, from left, Mark Holdsworth, Ze Winters, Megan Goerke & Louise Poulson.**  
Picture: Ian Munro

## It's ground zero for beating the bullies

**DARYNA ZADVIRNA**

It doesn't make headlines everyday, but bullying affects more children than you may think.

More than 70 per cent of seven to 15-year-olds, who took part in a national survey last year, said they have been bullied.

It is something Bully Zero — which conducted the survey — is attempting to change through its WA Inclusive Communities Project.

The project delivers powerful bullying prevention programs in 75 schools across Perth and regional areas of WA.

Children learn about how to respond to online bullying, where to go for help and the difference between cyberbullying and a one-time incident.

Louise Poulson, who is one of the program's facilitators, said early intervention and prevention had been shown to be effective in reducing the impact of bullying and

decreasing the likelihood of the psychological, physical and socio-economic effects.

"The response from children is one of the most rewarding parts of the job," she said.

"I've had Year 10 boys come up and shake my hand at the end of a presentation after answering some questions about physical threats they were getting.

"A Year 3 girl approached me and said 'I wish I knew about



this earlier — I was bullied in pre-primary and it wasn't until Year 3 that I knew how to deal with it'.

"They often share their own personal experiences with bullying, or ask questions about situations they've come across online. They learn a lot, but we always make sure they have fun at the same time."

The program has been funded by Telethon for the second year running, with 300 sessions delivered to WA's school children in 2022.

Bully Zero was also last year recognised for outstanding achievement in the Australian Charity Awards.

The not-for-profit was founded after the death of Allem Halkic, who was 17 years old when he took his own life in 2009. The teenager was taunted and threatened online before he ended his life.

Ms Poulson said research had found a connection between bullying and depression, anxiety, low life satisfaction, eating disorders and suicidal ideation.





Kirsten Button with Saba.  
Picture: Ross Swanborough

# Rolling out the magic carpet!

## Saba's gift combines fun & therapy

DARYNA ZADVIRNA

Saba Button's story is one many West Australians may be familiar with.

In 2010, at the age of one, Saba, inset, sustained a catastrophic acquired brain injury from a flu vaccine. It left her with level-five quadriplegia with multiple complex needs.

The Saba Rose Button Foundation was originally set up in 2012 to help her and her parents cope with never-ending medical bills and round-the-clock care. But after receiving compensation in 2014, the SRBF changed course to assist other children with special needs.

Saba's mother Kirsten Button said she was beyond grateful for the foundation to have been chosen as one of Telethon's beneficiaries last year.

"We are incredibly proud to be a local not-for-profit charity with (tax deductibility) status

that can assist children to access therapy, intensive therapy, specialised equipment and respite," she said.

"We have assisted many children to achieve to the very best of their potential and love being a part of their rehabilitation journey."

RehabME is a Nedlands-based SRBF facility and program that brings a multi-disciplinary approach to a child's therapy or needs.

"It is a community hub for families to come to, where we understand and have compassion for where they are on their journey," she said.

"We are extremely grateful for the incredible therapists we have at rehabME and the specialists we have in-

house." Ms Button said the Telethon grant would go towards buying a Mobile Magic Carpet for the rehabMe facility.

The award-winning interactive projection system is designed to offer inclusive play, therapy, and interaction for users of all abilities.

The Mobile Magic Carpet projects specially designed movement-responsive software applications on to horizontal surfaces. Children move over the image to engage with the projected content.



An infrared camera detects movements and feeds the live video into apps so users get an immediate response to their movement over the projected image. "It is so much fun and great for cause-and-effect play for kids," Ms Button said.

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community spirit

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# THE 2023 TELETHON

Telethon is transforming the lives of children in WA and beyond. Thanks to our incredibly generous community, Telethon is providing a record-level of funding to 107 organisations that support the wellbeing of children and their families.

**12 Buckets**  
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 young worker and 12 Buckets volunteer mentors.

**54 Reasons**  
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.

**Ability Solutions**  
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.

**Ability WA**  
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.

**All Stars for Autism**  
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.

**Allergy Support Hub**  
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.

**Anglicare WA**  
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.

**Asthma WA**  
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**  
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.

**Australia and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists Foundation**  
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 Association of WA**  
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 hART**  
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.

**Blind Sports Australia**  
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.

**Bully Zero Australia Foundation**  
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**  
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**  
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.

**Camp Quality**  
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.

**Child and Adolescent Health Service and Perth Children's Hospital**  
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".

**Child Cancer Research Foundation**  
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**  
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.

**CircusWA**  
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.

**Constable Care Foundation**  
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.

**Curtin University**  
The SCHOOL-KONTAKT Social Skills Toolkit 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.

**Cystic Fibrosis Western Australia**  
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 Health Service Aboriginal Corporation**  
Derbarl Yerrigan is increasing access for (Aboriginal children) Koolangkas 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.

**Down Syndrome WA**  
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 of WA**  
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.

**Ear Science Institute Australia**  
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 user syndrome, and further development of internationally acclaimed novel scaffold to repair perforated eardrums in children.

**Earbus Foundation of WA**  
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.

**Edith Cowan University**  
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.

**Edmund Rice Camps**  
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.

**Epilepsy WA**  
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.

**Fair Game Australia**  
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.

**Fiona Stanley Hospital and South Metropolitan Health Service**  
The RADIANCE project aims to prevent self-harm and suicidality in adolescents with ADHD, which affects about 5 per cent of adolescents, causing emotional

# GRANT RECIPIENTS

disregulation and elevated risks of self-harm. RAIDANCE will capture factors to reduce emotional distress and self-harm, and increase flourishing after ADHD treatments, thereby informing design of future service delivery.

**Foodbank 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.

**Football Futures Foundation**  
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.

**Fostering Hope Australia**  
Fostering Hope aims to support kinship and foster carers throughout WA in the care of babies, children and young people in out-of-home care. In addition, they provide essential items for children and young people placed in care. The Fostering Joy program provides fun activities for foster children and children in out-of-home care. Fostering Hope also hosts children with activity-rich, exciting events primarily based around holidays.

**Furthering Autistic Children's Education and Schooling**  
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.

**Good Sammy Enterprises**  
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**  
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**  
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**  
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**  
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**  
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.

**Inclusion Solutions**  
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.

**Indigo Australasia**  
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.

**JDRF Australia**  
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.

**Joondalup Health Campus and the ORIGINS Project**  
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.

**Kalparin**  
The Kalparin 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.

**Kids are Kids Therapy & Education Centre**  
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.

**Kids Cancer Support Group**  
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 Children's Therapy**  
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**  
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.

**Lifeline WA**  
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.

**Lionheart Camp for Kids**  
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.

**Lions Eye Institute**  
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 Australia**  
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.

**Meningitis Centre Australia**  
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.

**Mosaic**  
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.

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Thermomix® is proud to be a supporter of Telethon. We would like to thank our people for their contribution to the event, and the Western Australian community for their ongoing generosity.  
Grace and Bianca

WHEN A CHILD SURVIVES CANCER, THEIR HOPES & DREAMS DESERVE TO SURVIVE TOO.  
BACK ON TRACK WA  
backontrack.org.au  
EDUCATION SUPPORT FOR KIDS WITH CANCER  
PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY telathon  
CHILD CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION

**Murdoch University** MU Murdoch University  
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

**Muscular Dystrophy WA** M 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.

**Nature Play WA** Nature Play WA  
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.

**Ocean Heroes** Ocean Heroes  
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.

**OzHarvest** OzHarvest  
The Nourishing Our Schools program tackles children's food insecurity both in schools

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).

**Parkerville Children and Youth Care** Parkerville Children and Youth Care  
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.

**Perron Institute for Neurological and Translational Science** Perron Institute  
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.

**Perth Children's Hospital Foundation** Perth Children's Hospital Foundation  
Perth Children's Hospital Foundation is the official and largest fundraiser of Perth Children's Hospital. Through the support of Telathon 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.

**Pregnancy to Parenthood Clinic** Pregnancy to Parenthood Clinic  
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.

**Radio Lollipop** Radio Lollipop  
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.

**Reach Foundation** Reach Foundation  
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.

**Rebound WA** Rebound WA  
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.

**Redkite** Redkite  
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.

**The WA Hippotherapy Centre of RDA WA - BrookValley Farm** RDA  
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.

**Riding for the Disabled Association of WA - Carine Group** RDA Carine  
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.

**Rocky Bay** Rocky Bay  
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** Royal Flying Doctor Service  
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 Airovo 3 portable respiratory support device delivers warmed and humidified respiratory gases for babies and children across WA.

**Saba Rose Foundation** Saba Rose Foundation  
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.

**SensesWA** SensesWA  
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.

**Sensorium Theatre** Sensorium Theatre  
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.

**Shooting Stars (Glass Jar Australia)** Shooting Stars  
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.

**Sony Foundation Australia** Sony Foundation Australia  
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.

**Spectrum Space** SpectrumSpace  
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.

**Spinnaker Health Research Foundation** Spinnaker Health Research Foundation  
The Bod Pod will provide researchers an important tool to measure, record and track body composition of children identified as 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.

**Sports Challenge Australia** Sports Challenge Australia  
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.

**Starick** Starick  
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 WA** 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.

**St John of God Foundation** St John of God Foundation  
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.

**Starlight Children's Foundation Australia** Starlight Children's Foundation Australia  
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.

**Superfins WA** Superfins  
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.

**Swan Districts Foundation** Swan Districts Foundation  
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.

**Telathon Kids Institute** Telathon Kids Institute  
At Telathon 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.

**Telathon Speech & Hearing** Telathon Speech & Hearing  
Telathon 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 Fathering Project** The Fathering Project  
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 Humour Foundation** The Clown Doctors  
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 Katina Woodruff Children's Foundation** The Katina Woodruff Children's Foundation  
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.

**The University of Western Australia** The University of Western Australia  
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.

**Therapy Focus** Therapy Focus  
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.

**Thriving Exercise Rehabilitation** Thriving Exercise Rehabilitation  
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.

**Tiny Sparks WA** 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.

**Type 1 Diabetes Family Centre** TYPE 1 DIABETES FAMILY CENTRE  
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.

**WA All Abilities Football Association** WA All Abilities Football Association  
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.

**WA Child Research Fund (Department of Health)** WA Child Research Fund  
The WA Child Research Fund is co-funded by the Government of Western Australia and Telathon. 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.

**WA Disabled Sports Association WADSA** WA Disabled Sports Association  
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.

**West Australian Football Commission** West Australian Football Commission  
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.

**Wheels for Hope** Wheels for Hope  
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.

**Woman and Infants Research Foundation** Woman and 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.

**Youth Focus** youthfocus  
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.

**Speech & Hearing**

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