

GIVING



telethon 7

In **2024** Telethon is proud to be supporting:

136

Beneficiaries

276

Total Grants funded

159

Program Grants

55

Research Grants

62

Equipment Grants

1,657

Pieces of equipment



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 2023, our Little Telethon Stars – Emily, Connor, Harrison, and Sophia – joined forces with Channel 7 stars and the Western Australian community to make a real difference and help others in need.

Together, we raised funds to provide vital services and programs, support research, and purchase equipment for sick and vulnerable children. Our incredible Little Telethon Stars shared their personal stories of resilience and joy, and inspired yet another record-breaking total.

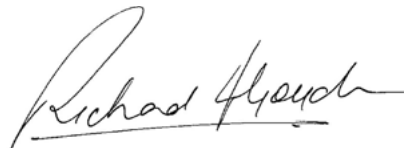
Raising an astonishing \$77 million, Telethon continues to thrive because of Western Australians who, year after year, delve deep into their hearts and pockets to give generously.

To each person who played a role, whether through giving, participation, volunteering or sheer enthusiasm, on behalf of Telethon Trustees we extend our heartfelt gratitude. It is awe-inspiring to acknowledge that since its inception in 1968, Telethon and the community of WA have raised more than \$600 million for charitable causes and purposes.

In 2024, the Telethon Trust will proudly support 136 fantastic beneficiaries and community organisations. These children's charities and organisations are the driving force of our mission and commitment that Telethon-funded services reach thousands of children and young families across WA every day.

We look forward to sharing with you the breadth and depth of the impactful work our beneficiaries deliver. But please take a moment and acknowledge that their achievements, outcomes, and heartwarming stories are a direct result of your continued generosity and support of Telethon.

Thank you for creating a better and brighter future for WA kids, for providing hope to those in need, and for proving time and time again that together, we can make the impossible possible.



Richard Goyder AO



Meet the little stars who inspired Western Australia

EMILY

For seven-year-old Emily Houston, life took an unexpected turn when she was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia. It's been a challenging road, but Emily and her family have faced it with courage, hope and resilience.

Telethon beneficiary Make-A-Wish Australia granted Emily an extraordinary wish: to be her own version of the Hulk and save her oncology team from attack. She recently underwent special superhero training and saved the hospital!

Hitting an important milestone, Emily has received her last round of medications. However, her journey continues with antibiotics, monthly blood tests and oncology reviews to ensure she stays on the path to recovery.

"The best thing about Telethon is raising the money to help children like me and my new friends."



Scan to meet Emily

CONNOR

Connor Barrett is an eight-year-old with courage and determination, fighting a tough battle against cystic fibrosis.

Connor's daily regimen includes a staggering 25 doses of medicine and two physiotherapy sessions - a testament to his incredible strength.

He began his journey with cystic fibrosis when he was only three weeks old, and since then, appointments and stays at Perth Children's Hospital have been a regular occurrence. For Connor, there is no such thing as stable. His digestive system causes him grief and pain. Yet, he presses on, defying the invisible grip of cystic fibrosis with a heart full of hope.

Connor enjoys playing sports to keep his lungs strong and dreams of becoming a medical researcher to help others.

"The most exciting part of Telethon was when the \$77.5 million was raised because that is so much money to help the kids."



Scan to meet Connor





SOPHIA

Sophia Marshall is a brave eight-year-old who began her journey with type 1 diabetes when she was just four.

It all started with two weeks of unexplained fatigue. Sophia wasn't as cheerful as usual; she lost weight and was constantly thirsty. Sophia received a preliminary diagnosis, sending the family to the emergency department. There, further tests confirmed her type 1 diabetes diagnosis.

Since then, Sophia and her family have undergone an intensive training program, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to manage this lifelong condition. Sophia visits the Perth Children's Hospital every three months and will until she turns 18.

Sophia's resilience shone even brighter when follow-up blood tests revealed a secondary diagnosis of coeliac disease during her first post-diagnosis appointment.

Sophia refuses to let her conditions define her; she's living life to the fullest, and diabetes is just along for the ride.

"Telethon was amazing! My favourite part was helping raise lots of money for kids just like me."



Scan to meet Sophia

HARRISON

Harrison Carthew is a resilient six-year-old who confronts the challenges of cerebral palsy with incredible strength.

Harrison was diagnosed with spastic diplegia cerebral palsy at the age of two. He also grapples with vision impairment, colour blindness, and difficulty navigating uneven surfaces and maintaining balance. Add to that speech, learning and developmental difficulties to get the full picture of the everyday challenges that Harrison faces.

Harrison's life is filled with hurdles. He copes with disrupted sleep, endures developing pains, and undergoes injections to manage muscle tightness and enhance his everyday life.

"I love seeing the other Telethon families. We are like family."

Scan to meet Harrison



Introducing the 2024 Telethon Grant recipients

With sincere thanks to our generous donors and the WA Community, Telethon is proud to support 136 beneficiaries in 2024. Each of these deserving organisations has committed to playing its part to ensure a brighter future for WA children through life-changing programs, state-of-the-art equipment and world-renowned medical research. We look forward to witnessing the positive impacts and outcomes they will achieve over the next 12 months.

Mark McCrory
Telethon Trust General Manager



Big Buckets and Future Leaders are peer-led mentoring and personal development programs for educationally disadvantaged high school students who need additional support and guidance. These programs are led by a youth coordinator with assistance from youth workers and volunteer mentors.



The risingUP program will introduce mental health concepts to students at 100 schools across WA, encouraging self-care and building skills to help manage mental health concerns. Workshops are delivered by psychologists, experienced facilitators and youth educators.



The All Abilities Art, High Care Kids and Adaptive Innovative Community Equipment programs aim to improve quality of life for children with complex disabilities, encouraging engagement in artistic sport and recreational activities. Innovative equipment items are tailor-made to support the individual needs of children.



The AssisT-Kids Equipment Library provides children with disability or development delay access to specialised equipment, supporting their overall wellbeing. The In-home Baby Intervention Service provides vital early intervention therapy to babies "at-risk" of developmental delay and/or disability. Hap-pea Mealtimes provides evidence-based practical therapies to children experiencing mealtime difficulties.



The Achievers Club helps school students from disadvantaged backgrounds who need additional support and guidance with their schoolwork. One-on-one mentoring sessions delivered by dedicated volunteers help build self-confidence, trust and a sense of achievement.



The Music for Hope program provides music education and instruments to children and at-risk youth. The program offers the opportunity to learn and develop musical skills while experiencing the joy of creativity, developing imagination, and achieving positive educational and behavioural outcomes.



SPARK provides children with ADHD and their parents, the skills to manage ADHD before, during and after diagnosis. Specialists employ a strengths-based approach to increase understanding of the condition, teach adaptive ways of thinking and provide practical skills for daily life.



The Teen Mentoring Program provides high school students with autism the opportunity to mentor younger children with autism. This groundbreaking initiative enables autistic children to connect, collaborate and inspire each other as they work together on creative and meaningful community-driven projects.



The Allergy Brave Program delivers tailored therapies to support children with severe allergy anxiety to build confidence and increase mental wellbeing. The Free to Play, Grow and Connect program provides education services to assist children and families in navigating their allergy diagnosis and managing life transitions.



Young Hearts is a free counselling service for children and young people who have experienced family and domestic violence. Through art, play and narrative therapies, these young West Australians are supported to rebuild trust and attachment, express their emotions and make sense of their experiences.



The Children's Asthma Hub (formerly Paediatric Respiratory Hub) offers comprehensive support for children with respiratory conditions, aiming to reduce hospitalisations and life-threatening asthma incidents. It provides lung function testing, analysis and consultations – all conveniently consolidated into a single appointment, effectively minimising health risks.



Research into how children experience and communicate pain will help develop crucial tools to enhance child healthcare. Investigating the impact of anaesthesia on babies' brains during major surgery aims to reduce adverse neurodevelopmental outcomes and improve the wellbeing of babies undergoing surgical procedures.



When a parent suffers from mental ill-health, the impact on children can be debilitating and long-lasting. The Kookaburra Kids camp and activity days provide vulnerable children with skills, peer support and emotional literacy to support a healthy childhood and reduce their risk of developing a mental health issue.



The Autism Association of WA supports families of children showing signs of autism to access early diagnosis and intervention. The program includes specialist playgroups, workshops and groups to improve capacity, knowledge and social wellbeing for the whole family.



The Ticketing Access Program allows vulnerable and disadvantaged children free access to Barking Gecko Theatre Company performances, encouraging inclusivity, and improving wellbeing and quality of life.

Nurturing WA families and their miracle babies

Having a premature or sick baby is an overwhelming and sometimes traumatic experience that can impact an entire family unit. Babies can spend weeks or months in hospital and the journey doesn't end when their baby is discharged. The emotional weight is often all-consuming for many parents.

Born 12 weeks early, baby Alecia spent the first 60 days of her life in the neonatal intensive care unit. For parents Caitlyn and Wade, those first days were incredibly stressful.

Fortunately, the **Miracle Babies Foundation** was there to provide them with much-needed support, guidance and education.

Caitlyn said: "I was fortunate to have a visit from Miracle Babies when I was struggling the most. It helped so much having someone who had been through similar events to talk to and share stories to know we weren't alone."

Alecia's journey was not without its challenges.



During a routine head scan, an abnormality was found in her brain and by seven months of age, Alecia was diagnosed with cerebral palsy.

With support from Miracle Babies, Caitlyn and Wade were able to prepare and had already organised early intervention to help Alecia reach her milestones.

"This journey has not been possible for us without the love, support and guidance of the most amazing volunteers," said Caitlyn.

Telethon funding enables Miracle Babies to support WA families of premature and sick babies, providing hope, guidance and connections to others who have walked in their shoes.

BIG h ART

Through youth work strategies and mentoring support, Maragutharra: Working Together aims to connect young people living in Roebourne to creative skills, culture and each other, improving their wellbeing, sense of belonging and resilience.



The Warren Youth Mental Health Support Program delivers mental health and social wellbeing workshops curated specifically to the needs of at-risk and disadvantaged youth in the Manjimup community.



Let's Get Visible is an accessible sport and recreation program specifically designed for children living with blindness or vision impairment in WA. The program aims to encourage inclusion, improve quality of life and break down stereotypes.



The Backpack Buddies program collaborates with schools in Mandurah to provide weekly backpacks filled with nourishment for children experiencing food insecurity. With a focus on enhancing wellbeing, creating brighter educational opportunities and making a tangible impact in children's lives, the program strives to create positive change within the community.



Through the delivery of powerful bullying intervention and prevention programs in WA schools, Project B.R.A.V.E. aims to reduce incidents of bullying. The project strives to mitigate the harmful effects of bullying and enhance the wellbeing of vulnerable children.



The Cahoots Hearts and Minds Program (CHAMPS) is a holistic wellbeing program for children living with disability and/or disadvantage. Through art and sensory experiences, CHAMPS aims to improve children's mental health and wellbeing.



Camp Autism WA provides unique camps for autistic children and their families, inclusive of siblings, parents and caregivers. The camps support families to build and strengthen skills, make social connections and inspire personal development in a warm, friendly environment based on fun and adventure.



The Child Life Therapy program uses play therapies to reduce anxiety and distress in children undergoing cancer treatments at Perth Children's Hospital. The Kids Impacted by Carer's Cancer program offers support and recreational activities to improve the mental and social wellbeing of children whose parents have been diagnosed with cancer.



Optimise2 research explores how to improve the safety of intubation for infants aiming to reduce the small but serious risk of oxygen desaturation resulting in brain damage, cardiac arrest and death. An Australian-first post-sepsis care platform will provide individualised support to families and children impacted by sepsis. Telethon Trust Fellowships enable clinicians to undertake innovative research projects.



Shining a light on the beneficiaries that call Perth Children's Hospital home

A hospital visit can be daunting, especially for children. But inside **Perth Children's Hospital** (PCH), there are incredible Telethon beneficiaries bringing hope and happiness to Western Australia's youngest patients and their families.

For eight-year-old Lola, PCH became a second home. During her battle with cancer and intense treatment, **The Humour Foundation Clown Doctors** brought laughter where it was unexpected, yet most needed.

Lola's mum, Lisa, said: "They light up every room. I have seen it on my daughter's face and felt the pure love, kindness and happiness that they bring into what is every parent's worst nightmare."

Children diagnosed with cancer and their siblings experience high levels of distress and trauma. It impacts virtually every aspect of a family's life. **Redkite** provides vital counselling and support services to children, at no cost to families – improving mental health, wellbeing and quality of life in hospital and on return home.

Courtney's life was shattered when her 18-month-old daughter Kenley was diagnosed with leukaemia. **Kids Cancer Support Group** has been there throughout the journey.



"This charity has been there to support us through our darkest days, helping to create moments of normality in a world where nothing feels normal," Courtney said.

But it's not just on the oncology ward. Throughout the entire hospital there are organisations spreading kindness and smiles to those who need it most.

Starlight Foundation's Captain Starlight brings the power of fun and laughter, helping sick kids feel happier, more confident and better able to cope.

Radio Lollipop's volunteers provide music and entertainment across the wards, and **Kiind** gives WA children with disability and their families practical guidance and emotional support.

Rare Care Centre medical director, Dr Gareth Baynem, said: "Kiind's Hospital Support Program is invaluable, addressing the unmet needs of WA families raising children with disability."

Medical professionals appreciate and value the positive impact these organisations have on sick kids and their families.



At one-week-old, Olivia went into cardiac arrest. It was later confirmed to be a heart defect, the first diagnosis of many. Her mum, Jacinta, said: "HeartKids has been our support since the beginning."

PCH head of cardiology, Dr Stephen Shipton, said: "**HeartKids** remain invaluable allies in our management of children with heart disease as well as their families and the communities in which they live."

Telethon is proud to serve as a lifeline for its many beneficiaries which call Perth Children's Hospital home, where every organisation, and every individual, is dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of WA children.





Back on Track WA provides children diagnosed with cancer access to tailored educational support through mentoring, tutoring and collaboration with online education providers. This aims to improve children's overall wellbeing and help them regain a sense of normalcy and purpose.



Children's Cancer Institute research will develop and apply novel technologies, models and minimally invasive methods in bringing precision medicine to WA children and young people diagnosed with cancer.



Clown Doctors use evidence-informed, humour therapy to improve quality of life for children at Perth Children's Hospital. Purpose-trained to work in medical settings, Clown Doctors address physiological and psychological needs – distracting frightened children, encouraging resilience, providing respite for parents and supporting hospital staff.



Studies show Aboriginal children have the highest rates of ear disease and associated hearing loss in the world. The Aboriginal Ear Health Program aims to improve hearing outcomes of Aboriginal children by providing streamlined access to specialist care that is integrated, culturally safe and family centred.



My Play School is an early intervention education program for migrant and refugee children aged three to five years with developmental vulnerabilities. Welcome Journeys supports the mental health and wellbeing of refugees and migrants with complex life barriers through psychosocial, peer and educational supports.



The At-Risk Aboriginal Youth Filmmaking Program empowers children in Newman to manage mental health issues, develop teamwork, empathy and critical thinking. The Critical Thinking and Ethical Decision-Making Program delivers free and ongoing programs to low socio-economic public schools across WA.



The development of a mixed reality visualisation tool may lead to reduced pain and fewer follow-up surgeries for children living with congenital heart disease. Assessing the safety and efficacy of co-administered IV medications aims to reduce the risk of catastrophic outcomes in vulnerable babies. An online therapy intervention aims to treat mental health issues resulting from grief.



The Chronic Wet Cough Community Education Program enhances respiratory health awareness in regional Aboriginal communities – empowering families and educating health professionals. The Thriving Families program delivers regional outreach to ensure children with cystic fibrosis and their families have access to therapy, support services and respite care.



The Child Development Program is a comprehensive, culturally safe service for Aboriginal children (Koolingas) in Perth with complex health and developmental needs. The service provides life-changing diagnostic and therapeutic support to families.

Two life-saving journeys for one WA family

Having one child with a rare condition is challenging, but when a family receives a diagnosis for their second child, that wave of fear comes crashing back, now knowing the road that lies ahead.

Alannah and Bryson are the parents of two children born with a metabolic condition affecting their livers. While their journeys have been different, both have required life-saving transplants.

Their oldest son, Jayden, faced seizures and a self-induced coma at just two days old due to toxic ammonia levels. Alannah and Bryson were given the choice to take Jayden home for the first and last time or attempt a treatment of dialysis. Jayden defied expectations and underwent a liver transplant at just seven months old.

Eleven years later, Alannah relived the emotional turmoil when her baby girl, Lorelei, showed symptoms of the same genetic condition. At 10 months, Lorelei went into acute liver failure, requiring a living transplant a year later.

As a new Telethon beneficiary, **Transplant Australia** supports Western Australian paediatric transplant recipients and their families.

“Through camps, transplant games, and regular catch ups with families that have been through the same journey, our family no longer feels alone,” Alannah said.

Thanks to Telethon, Transplant Australia can deliver a crucial program that champions better health outcomes for WA children who have undergone life-saving transplants and their families.





BikeRescue aims to inspire at-risk young people to envision a better future for themselves. Working shoulder-to-shoulder to build bikes, mentors build rapport with young people leading to conversations around healthy lifestyle habits, relationships and mental health.



Down Syndrome WA offers family support, developmental playgroups, educational resources and care packs to improve the wellbeing of children with Down syndrome and their families. A special camp for teens with Down syndrome aims to build friendships, skills, capacity and self-belief.



The Dyslexia-SPELD Foundation (DSF) family support initiative supports children with learning and language difficulties and their families through in-person and online information sessions, and targeted resources. DSF is working towards developing a brief assessment for reading difficulties to reduce the significant wait times for assessments.



Research into the prevalence and incidence of hearing loss and ear disease of Aboriginal children in five East Pilbara communities will help inform service provision and improve the hearing health of Indigenous children.



The Hear Today, Shine Tomorrow program provides regular ear health services to children in regional and remote WA, helping diagnose and treat middle-ear disease and hearing loss. Auditory Brainstem Response testing helps identify hearing loss and assess neurological function in newborns, aiding in the early detection of hearing-related issues and neurological conditions.



EdConnect Australia supports disadvantaged students across WA through dedicated volunteers who aim to positively impact their mental health, wellbeing and academic success. Offering a trusted role model enables challenges, fears and concerns to be raised and addressed while reducing isolation and loneliness.



The PhenoCycler-Fusion System can reveal hidden patterns in tissues and organs, leading to insights about diseases like cancer, autoimmune and neurological conditions affecting children. The system will support collaborative studies across multiple research institutions to make groundbreaking discoveries of new treatment targets for debilitating conditions.



Mega Camps are week-long respite programs for at-risk or disadvantaged children, offering fun, recreational opportunities to improve mental health. The Remote Community Program provides respite and mentoring programs to vulnerable children in regional and remote areas who are deemed at risk or disadvantaged.



Using edible gardens as a tool, the Thriving Communities program empowers children with skills, knowledge, and infrastructure to grow, harvest and cook. It also reduces food insecurity for children affected by poverty by providing a source of free, fresh food.



The Children and Epilepsy Program provides loan seizure alert devices, outreach and nurse support to children with epilepsy and their families. The program helps to improve health outcomes by reducing the risk of epilepsy-related harm, fear, anxiety and stigma around seizures, treatments and testing regimes.



The CODA WA program delivers workshops and group sessions to help build resilience and provide a support network to bilingual and bicultural children of deaf adults. The program aims to increase awareness and understanding for children living in both the deaf and hearing communities.



The Recycle and Donate project distributes pre-loved sports shoes and equipment, enabling children to experience the physical, mental and social benefits of sports participation. The Fit and Healthy in the Outback program delivers interactive health promotion activities in remote communities aiming to reduce lifestyle-related diseases, build cohesion and improve mental wellbeing.

Shining a light on autism support in WA



With lengthy wait times for assessments and therapy, the **Autism Association of WA's** LINKS Playgroup is making a significant difference in the lives of Western Australian children.

The free playgroup supports families with young children showing signs of autism or developmental delays by helping them learn strategies to begin therapy while they wait to access formal services.

Remy's family discovered The LINKS (formerly First Steps) Playgroup in March 2023, and it quickly became a lifeline for them. Once overwhelmed and struggling to connect with others, Remy found a supportive environment where she could explore, connect and engage.

Samantha, Remy's mother, highlighted the incredible progress in Remy's developmental and communication skills, with less meltdowns and improved sleep.

"Remy wouldn't speak to kids at all before, and now she has a little best friend she loves. She's interacting so well, with fewer meltdowns and tears," Samantha said.

The playgroup not only focuses on children, but also supports parents and caregivers. Families can connect with experienced therapists and play leaders, creating a network of understanding and shared experiences.

For Samantha, playgroup is the first setting they have felt supported in, where the staff and families were inclusive, accepting and supportive of her daughter without judgment.

"I cried the whole car ride home because I couldn't believe the difference it made in our daughter in two hours. I will never be able to thank Autism Association enough," Samantha said.

With weekly sessions in several metro locations, the playgroup supported more than 94 families last year. Telethon funding enables the program to expand, thrive and provide much-needed support to children with autism and their families.



A new research project will aim to reverse peanut allergy in infants, generating evidence to translate potentially life-changing treatment into a future community-based model of care. The establishment of a standardised hearing health registry will create a paediatric ear health database to ensure timely care, enable future research and enhance service quality.



Fiona Wood Foundation

Magnetic Resonance Imaging will provide insights into how childhood burns may lead to changes in the brain, affecting long-term mental health. The research will assess the relationship between burn injury, platelets and vascular function to characterise mechanisms that contribute to the development of cardiovascular disease after non-severe childhood burns.



The School Breakfast Program supports students in more than 500 schools, improving food security and increasing education, health and social outcomes. Through the nom! Children program, public health nutritionists provide parents with young children the knowledge, skills and confidence to create nutritious meals.



The Football for All program helps build confidence and increase the social, mental and physical wellbeing of young people with disabilities through inclusive soccer. An inflatable pitch ensures the safety of football players and caters for the requirements of blind football.



The Fostering Joy program supports children in foster and out-of-home care with the supply of essential items, as well as hosting fun, children-focused events aimed at creating a community of support.



Children with autism often experience poor academic and social outcomes. FACES uses science-based interventions aimed at improving social and behavioural skills, and ultimately increasing educational outcomes for neurodivergent children.



Hannah's House care programs support children with complex needs to reach developmental goals, attend school and social activities, and provide respite for the whole family. The Playtime Program offers accessible play activities delivered by a qualified play specialist, aiming to improve the health and wellbeing of children with complex needs.



A new research project aims to develop new treatments for two genetically distinct muscle diseases, potentially finding a life-saving solution for children. The creation of a blood test to detect early stages of liver disease in children with cystic fibrosis will allow earlier access to treatment and improved quality of life.



The Power of One project combines consumer-driven research with real-world practices, creating rich data sets with machine learning models to improve the health and wellbeing of children with disabilities. An advanced body-weight support system enables children to confidently practice their walking and balance without fear of falling.



HeartKids provides vital in-hospital, regional and local community services to thousands of children with congenital heart disease and their families, ensuring they are supported, informed and educated throughout their child's health journey.



The Connections program provides premature babies and their families access to critical support services, removing stressors so families can focus on their child's health. The Aboriginal Support Fund supports Aboriginal parents with premature or sick babies by reducing barriers to attending hospital and ensuring parents are part of their babies' care.



HorsePower Hills aims to empower children with diverse abilities to break through physical, cognitive, emotional and social barriers utilising the power of the horse to develop new skills, discover new abilities and define the life they want to live.



Building Inclusive School Communities is a program that aims to foster the social inclusion of children with disabilities through in-school presentations delivered by Paralympian and former Little Telethon Star, Ben Popham OAM.



It is common for asthmatic adolescents to have breathing issues that are misdiagnosed as asthma. The institute will conduct research to evaluate whether a decision-support tool can facilitate earlier diagnosis. A high-performance liquid chromatography machine will help measure drug delivery and effectiveness, and test new drug formulations.



The JDRF Global Centre of Excellence improves the lives of children and adolescents with type 1 diabetes. The centre will address the effective and rapid translation of research breakthroughs into clinical care to ensure that new therapies and evidence are implemented into practice and policy.



KWCF

The Katina Woodruff
Children's Foundation, Inc.

The Inclusion Development and Readiness project supports recently arrived refugee and migrant children to overcome trauma and dislocation and move forward to new and healthy futures. Individualised cultural support programs improve mental health and wellbeing, allowing children to adjust better to their new setting.



THE THERAPY & EDUCATION CENTRE INC.

The Therapy in Schools program provides health assessments and intervention within an evidence-based trauma-informed framework to vulnerable children, improving literacy and developmental outcomes. Therapy equipment will increase children's access to therapy services, encouraging development and improving quality of life.



The Peer Support Program supports the mental health and wellbeing of families affected and bereaved by childhood cancer, providing much-needed connection and advocacy during and post-treatment.

Standing up for young minds in the Kimberley

Suicide is the leading cause of death for Australians under the age of 44, with 75 per cent of mental health issues emerging before the age of 25.

Over the past decade, **zero2hero** has empowered more than 220,000 young people in WA through mental health and suicide prevention education.

For 17-year-old Mekhi, the Camp Hero program was life-changing.

"This program created some of my best memories and lifelong connections. I felt like I exhaled and finally got to breathe once I was part of zero2hero."

In its first year as a Telethon beneficiary, zero2hero turns its focus to the Kimberley, where the state's highest rate of hospitalisation for self-harm in those aged 0 to 24 demands urgent attention.

"Studies show the leading cause of death or ill-health for young people in the Kimberley is suicide and self-inflicted injuries," partnerships and fundraising manager Oscar Wharton said. "Nothing is hurting young people more in the region than poor mental health."

Telethon's funding will support zero2hero's delivery of free mental health workshops to local schools, free suicide prevention workshops to the community, and sponsor 20 young individuals to attend Camp Hero LEADERSHIP – a life-changing flagship camp equipping young leaders with practical skills to positively support others who may be struggling.





Kiind supports children with disability and their families at Perth Children's Hospital and across regional and remote WA. The Kiind hospital program helps families to understand the implications of a diagnosis and to get necessary support in place quickly. After discharge, Kiind offers ongoing practical, social and emotional supports.



Legacy WA supports children who belong to the families of veterans who have sacrificed their lives or health while serving in the Australian Defence Force. Its Education Assistance Program ensures these children do not experience educational disadvantage as a result of their parent's ill-health.



The ROCKS 2024 program partners with primary schools in the Goldfields region to educate children on health and safety measures, such as healthy eating, exercise, mental health, quality sleep and cyber safety.



Digital Crisis Support connects young people in crisis to life-saving care and support via text or online chat. This service offers a safe and non-judgemental space to provide support and referrals to young people facing mental health issues.



Lionheart's Family Camps support grieving children following the death of a parent or significant person. The camp provides a safe space for children to learn critical skills to navigate grief. The Grief Pathway Program provides a wrap-around grief support for children following the death of an immediate family member.



Lions Eye Institute combines world-class treatment with ground-breaking scientific research in eye and vision health. Its community outreach service, Lions Outback Vision, strives towards its mission to prevent and cure blindness and eye disease from infancy to childhood and beyond in metropolitan, regional and remote WA.



Physical activity plays a pivotal role in maintaining and improving the overall health of children undergoing cancer treatment. Little Big Steps provides physiotherapy support to help kids keep moving while undergoing cancer treatments at Perth Children's Hospital.



Make-A-Wish grants inspirational wish journeys for critically ill children. For everyone involved, the impact of a wish has an immediate uplifting and positive effect, empowering children with hope and joy when they need it most.



The KnowActVax program educates communities and raises awareness of Meningitis in WA. Sharing the message "know the signs, act immediately and vaccinate", the program strives to save lives and reduce the risk of disability in children throughout metropolitan, regional and remote WA.



The Nurture program supports Perth families with sick or premature babies through comprehensive parent-to-parent support from pregnancy, throughout their stay in the hospital to the transition home and beyond.



The Learn2Adult program prepares teenagers living with disability to take control of their lives and become confident adult decision-makers. Using a unique roadmap tool, teenagers achieve better life outcomes and avoid the harm and restriction too often experienced by young adults with disability.



A new protective safety workstation will significantly enhance Murdoch University's drug development program, improving the exploration of treatments for childhood diseases. A gene-targeting approach aims to determine potential treatments for untreatable childhood dementia – a debilitating and life-limiting disease. Yawardani Jan-ga improves the social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal youth in the Kimberley.

In **2023**,
telethon 7
funded grants
directly impacted

227,806

children



146,787

families



Kicking goals

Thanks to the Football Futures Foundation and the WA Football Commission (Starkick)

17,800 families

of all abilities had access to an inclusive sports community.



Breaking the cycle of disadvantage



With the Parkerville Education, Employment and Training Program over **95%** of the students go on to complete apprenticeships, traineeships, jobs or further education.

Building resilience

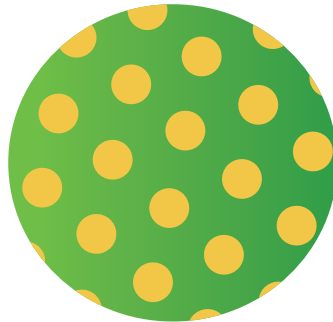
Constable Care has empowered **more than 60,000** vulnerable children on protective behaviours, cyber safety, bullying, mental health and inclusion.

Sharing joy

Bringing laughs, strength, respite and smiles to the faces of Perth's most critically ill, Radio Lollipop, Starlight Children's Foundation and the Humour Foundation visited

22,580 children

in Perth Children's Hospital.



Food security

Combating the cost of living and ensuring children have access to vital food relief. OzHarvest and Foodbank WA have supported **25,200 children, 93 schools** and provided **28,300 emergency meals**, guaranteeing nutritious food was available across the State.

Building healthy families

101 parents now have the tools to be role models and raise resilient children due to Pregnancy to Parenthood therapeutic interventions supporting parental mental health.



Research translation

Telethon-funded **research** led to the publishing of new clinical guidelines, including The National Healthy Skin Guideline 2nd Edition by TKI and PhotoVoice Practice Guide by Curtin University.



The gift of speech and hearing

EarBus Foundation of WA and Telethon Speech and Hearing visited Goldfields and Pilbara communities to provide **7,853 speech and hearing tests and screenings** to support early intervention in communities.



Dreams come true

Make-A-Wish Australia granted **26 wishes** for WA children facing critical illness, from snow adventures to Australia Zoo!



152,441

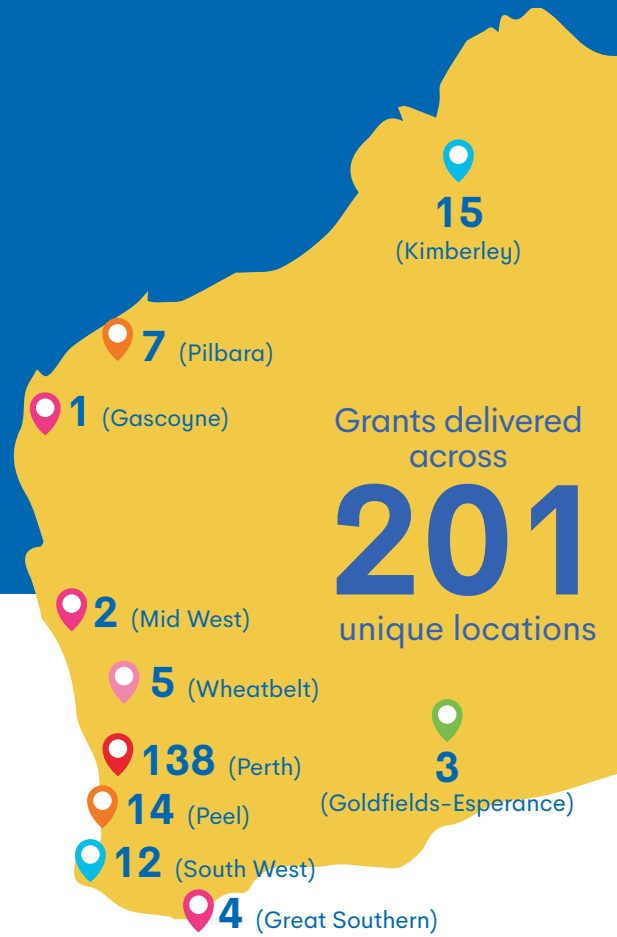


parents

1,520



schools



Commissioning inclusion

Sensorium Theatre improved wellbeing of **2,004 children**, providing an inclusive and immersive experience through the performing arts.



Life-saving support

Allergy Support Hub supported **185 families** with education, counselling and community support.

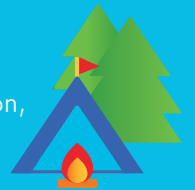


Diving into life

720 children with additional needs were able to make a splash through Ocean Heroes' free surfing events, Superfins WA's swimming lessons and the Rocky Bay AusSwim program.

Time for fun and making friends

Edmund Rice Camps for Kids WA, Sony Foundation, Camp Autism and Camp Quality delivered **19 camps** for vulnerable children and their families.



Seeing is believing

In 2022, there were no blind or vision impaired children under the age of 15 participating in sport and recreation activities here in WA. Blind Sports Australia have changed this statistic and created a tailored program ensuring **37 children** can now participate.

Research partnerships

Together, Telethon and the State Government granted more than **\$6.5M** to **11 recipients** through the **WA Child Health Research Fund**.

Kids supporting kids

Autistic teens mentor autistic children through All Stars for Autism, improving the lives of **75 children** in 2023.

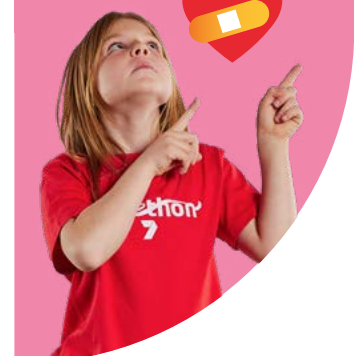
Healing trauma

Anglicare WA delivered **296 counselling sessions** across Mandurah and Albany, providing vital support for children healing from trauma.



The gift of music

Redkite conducted around **400 individual music therapy sessions** for children undergoing cancer treatment at Perth Children's Hospital.





Talk N Walk is a wellbeing program facilitated by an app, co-designed and piloted with 11 to 14-year-old girls. The program aims to help young girls develop and strengthen social connections, and improve their physical activity and mental health.



The NeuroKids program supports the health and wellbeing of children and adolescents living with neurological symptoms or conditions through free, in-home and community neurological nursing services, case management and care navigation.



The Lessons for Life program aims to develop and deliver comprehensive education and learning targeting significant moments in a child's condition journey. It will provide greater opportunities for children living with neuromuscular conditions to live full lives.



The Attachment and Biobehavioural Catch-up (ABC) home visiting program supports caregivers of infants and toddlers to foster their development and form healthy relationships with their little ones. A specialised infant mental health screening protocol will identify and address early signs of infant social and emotional development difficulties.



Ocean Heroes aims to improve the wellbeing of children with autism and their families through surfing. Combining compassion, skill and patience, Ocean Heroes provides the thrill of surfing in regional WA through free events catering for over 1,000 neurodiverse children.



Nourishing Our Schools tackles children's food insecurity in schools and at home. The program provides school breakfasts and lunches, cooking programs and nourishing hampers for vulnerable families. In 2024, OzHarvest aims to expand the program to 100 schools across Perth.



The Education, Employment and Training program works with students to help them achieve their potential by developing their literacy, numeracy, social and life skills in a safe and secure environment. The organisation's Multiagency Investigation Support Team helps children impacted by sexual abuse by improving access to the services required to respond to their needs.



Through innovative research, the Perron Institute aims to improve quality of life for people suffering from devastating neurological conditions. A new research project will aim to develop novel treatments for several incurable Chromosome 15 imprinting disorders.



A range of projects will support WA children's health and wellbeing through movement assessments, physical exercise programs, advanced technology and the development of WA first children's hospice. Research into respiratory illness, rare disease and heart attack risk will improve health outcomes for WA children.



The Vulnerable Infants Program is a no-cost clinical intervention and training program delivered in Perth and Geraldton. It supports foundational relationships between parents and their babies, and reduces the risk of mental health issues in infancy.



Baby Coming You Ready? is a digital platform co-designed by Elders, Aboriginal parents and clinicians. It aims to bridge communication barriers between Aboriginal women and their healthcare provider during pregnancy and after the baby arrives.



Through Radio Lollipop's Ward Visiting Program, volunteers in eight hospitals bring smiles and laughter to children, improving wellbeing, creativity and companionship. The radio station at Perth Children's Hospital allows children to request songs and even help host the on-air broadcast.

Serving up better futures for WA kids

A hidden struggle affecting one in three households is unfolding within the WA community. This struggle is food insecurity – a reality impacting the health, education, and future of WA children.

The demand for food relief services is rising. More than 388,000 WA households are grappling with food insecurity – an increase of 80,000 in the past year*. 120,000 of these are families with children. This is more than just statistics; it's a daily challenge faced by many families, often silently.

With Telethon's support, **Foodbank WA**, **OzHarvest**, and **Bridge Builders** aim to tackle this significant problem: children going hungry.

In 2023, Foodbank WA's School Breakfast program supplied 351,500kg of breakfast foods to 524 schools across WA. More than 80,800 breakfasts were served to children each week, with a mission to ensure no child started the day on an empty stomach.

OzHarvest's Nourishing Our Schools program delivered more than 308,098 meals to 93 schools. This enhanced the lives of 4,650 vulnerable children, and directly impacted 1,395 families experiencing food insecurity.

Bridge Builders' Backpack Buddies program aims to prevent children from going hungry, especially on weekends. Currently, more than 4,900 kids in the Mandurah region are food insecure. Backpack Buddies is distributing backpacks filled with nutritious food every Friday to schools with kids in need.

Telethon's support enables Foodbank WA, OzHarvest and Bridge Builders to partner with local schools and connect with children and families struggling to put food on the table. It's about more than just a meal; it's about giving WA kids a better chance at a healthy, happy life.



Harvesting hope for WA kids

In remote regions of WA, where children grapple with food insecurity and health challenges, **EON Foundation** is impacting lives through its Thriving Communities program.

The program supports children and their communities, equipping them with the skills to grow, harvest and cook nutritious food. It goes beyond ensuring there's enough to eat; it's about understanding the importance of balanced nutrition in maintaining good health.

Since 2005, EON has collaborated with more than 40 remote and regional indigenous communities, aiming to reduce food insecurity and build a deeper understanding of sustainable food practises.



Thanks to Telethon's support, the positive ripple effect of EON's Thriving Communities program is expanding to Rangeway Primary School in Geraldton, where more than 85 per cent are disadvantaged students.

"Our students face enormous barriers... including poverty, lack of access to food, and the subsequent negative impacts on their physical and mental health," principal Karin van Dongen said. "We want to empower our kids, remove any barriers that stop them from attending school, and when they are here, we want them to feel safe, valued, and ready to learn."

"The Thriving Communities program is going to be such a great thing for our school, particularly in promoting healthy messaging."

With Telethon's support, the Thriving Communities program ensures that vulnerable children in all corners of WA are nourished and healthy, sowing the seeds for a brighter future.

*The Foodbank Hunger Report 2023



Reach Baby is a movement program that creates a collaborative environment free of judgement to understand babies' developmental needs and challenges. With playful, enthusiastic and highly experienced instructors, Reach Baby offers babies and their parents a chance to move, play and reach their personal best.



The Giving Kids A Go program aims to remove physical and mental barriers that exist for children and teenagers with a physical disability. This provides them with the same sports and recreation opportunities as their peers, and offers a support network to families.



Reclink provides opportunities for children with disabilities, poor mental health and/or from marginalised communities to access a range of inclusive cricket activities to improve physical, mental and social wellbeing.



Redkite provides financial assistance to families facing childhood cancer, aiming to relieve stress and enable families to provide the best possible care and support to their children. Specialist child counselling and music therapy help support the mental health and wellbeing of children diagnosed with cancer.



RDA Brigadoon enables children with disabilities to experience enjoyment, challenge and a sense of achievement through participation in equine-supported activities. Riding equipment ensures children can safely access equine therapy and support.



Equine therapy supports children with disabilities with mobility, coordination, balance and strength. The Equicizer is a mechanical horse that offers safe, soothing, low impact core exercise, and fun, alternative ways to deliver equine therapies for people with disabilities.



RDA Carine offers equine-assisted therapy to children living with varying abilities and additional needs. Through interactive equine activities, the program aims to enhance physical, cognitive, and emotional wellbeing while providing a supportive and nurturing environment, fostering personal growth and independence for participants.



At RDA Oakford, children with additional needs can access extensive physiotherapy in a fun manner. Two new ponies with exceptional temperament will help ensure even the most vulnerable children can safely access services.



The Early Start Intervention Program provides critical early intervention to children under the age of five with, or at risk of, rare diseases who would otherwise experience delays in accessing funded services. The program offers multidisciplinary therapy services, including fine and gross motor skills communication, eating, mobility and more.



Critically ill babies and children present some of the most challenging medical situations for RFDS doctors and nurses. A bespoke engineering solution will enable neonatal cribs to be powered and installed in two rotary aircrafts, and will provide vital additional capacity to transport infants directly to Perth hospitals.



Schools Plus partners with schools in WA communities facing disadvantage. It aims to implement place-based strategic initiatives to improve the mental health and wellbeing of vulnerable and disadvantaged children, helping children thrive and fulfil their potential.



Sensorium's Imagine program will see new high-quality, multi-sensory performing arts intervention programs delivered in schools, libraries and early years centres throughout WA. The program aims to improve the wellbeing of children who are disadvantaged and marginalised due to disability or socio-economic circumstances.

Cutting-edge research into childhood dementia

Dementia is a devastating condition often associated with the elderly. However, it can also strike the very young. In Australia, an estimated 2,300 children are living with dementia, which is caused by more than 100 genetic conditions.

Children living with dementia have the same symptoms as adults. Over months or years, they progressively lose memories, skills and abilities. Tragically, most do not reach adulthood.

Telethon funding will enable groundbreaking research involving Perth families at Murdoch University, which aims to pave the way for new approaches to treating and caring for children with dementia.

This world-first research aims to test leading drug candidates to determine their potential as a treatment for childhood dementia.

After starting to show symptoms around her second birthday, Dariya was diagnosed with Sanfilippo syndrome at the age of six. This is a rare and

terminal genetic metabolism disorder that doesn't show any signs at birth. As the disease progresses, children slowly lose their ability to speak, walk and eat.

Dariya's parents, Emad and Deeman, said that her diagnosis has impacted the whole family.

"The hardest part is seeing our child suffering and not being able to help. Walking was her favorite activity, but now she cannot stand on her own two feet."

With Telethon's support, **Murdoch University** can conduct cutting-edge research into childhood dementia, which can potentially change lives and spare families from heartbreak in the future.



The Art with the Stars program uses art and performance to empower Aboriginal girls to develop a sense of pride in their cultural identity and the strength to rise above racism in schools. By yarning throughout this cultural immersion, participants learn new skills and reconnect with themselves, their communities and country.



You Can Stay is a free accommodation program for regional children diagnosed with cancer, ensuring equal access to essential hospital treatment and enabling families to support their child in Perth. The Children's Holiday Camp provides free and fun overnight care for children with disability, offering valuable respite for their families and carers.



The Holiday Makers Program nurtures the social and emotional development of autistic children by providing a safe inclusive space where they can meet others and experience new activities based on their interests. The program aims to improve children's social skills, self-esteem and confidence.



Spinnaker aims to improve the quality and access of physical activity programs available to children with autism through individualised programs co-designed by the child, parent/carer and exercise physiologist.



The world-first E-pals platform supports the mental and physical health of children identified as at-risk. Dedicated mentors offer a strong, supportive and consistent role model, and provide a sense of belonging and connection.



St John of God Foundation aims to transform health care, through excellence in personalised patient treatment and leading medical research. Cutting-edge medical equipment will ensure neonatal babies and children at St John of God hospitals receive the best possible care. Training mannequins will support specialist training in CPR for babies.



The Thriving Through Connection program aims to improve the safety and wellbeing of young people who have experienced family and domestic violence through individual and group-based support, psychosocial education, practical assistance, advocacy and referral, and social and peer connections.



Starkick is a unique West Australian All Abilities Football program for children that runs alongside Auskick at junior football clubs. Children with disability are provided with the support and resources they require to enable them to participate and have fun playing football in a community club environment.



The Captain Starlight program at Perth Children's Hospital uses play and social connection to help sick children cope in times of stress and positively impact their healthcare experience. Livewire supports teens with the stress and isolation of their illness by providing opportunities for creativity, connection and entertainment.



The Superfins Learn to Swim program offers children with disabilities access to swimming lessons tailored to their individual needs. It aims to promote water safety and improve physical health and fitness while learning the basic skills of swimming.



Superyou Therapy uses alternative and augmentative communication (AAC) tools to support children and young people with complex communication needs. AAC devices help give a voice to children with disabilities and additional needs, improving independence, education and mental health.



Through accessible sports and targeted mentoring, the Disability and Inclusion program allows children with disabilities to build self-esteem, independence and communication to support their education and employment pathways and improve mental and physical health.



Telethon Kids Institute is one of the largest and most successful medical research institutes in Australia. Researchers are searching for answers to the big issues in child health, including extra challenges faced by Aboriginal kids and families. At Telethon Kids Institute, the vision is simple: happy, healthy kids.



Telethon Speech & Hearing offers quality educational, diagnostic, therapeutic and support services for children with hearing loss and speech and language delays. These essential early interventions and school support services ensure children achieve success in education and future employment.



The Fathering Project aims to promote positive fathering behaviours and fathers' engagement with their infants, preschool, primary school and adolescent-aged children. Its programs support educational outcomes for disadvantaged children, and emotional and physical development for neurodiverse children.



The ORIGINS Project is following 10,000 children and their families over a decade, following their progress from pregnancy and beyond to investigate the prevention of disease and to discover how every child and family can reach their full potential.



A dedicated child counsellor at Graceville Women's Refuge supports the mental health and wellbeing of children impacted by family and domestic violence. This role provides specialised assessments, one-to-one psychological care and identifies pathways to relevant support and long-term recovery.



Learning Clubs offer secure and supportive out-of-school hours learning environments for vulnerable primary students facing disadvantages. In these settings, students can access resources, specialised learning and activities to enhance their academic skills. Guided by skilled tutors and nurtured in socially connected environments, students also experience improved wellbeing.



The School Readiness program offers individual and group therapy sessions and a play-based therapy space to help children with disabilities and developmental delays prepare for schooling. Unique equipment tailored for a child's individual needs increases quality of life and supports their goals and aspirations.



Thriving in Motion is a unique exercise service targeting children and young people whose ability to participate in community or school-based physical activity is impacted by physical, mental or behavioural conditions. Movement for Mental Health supports vulnerable children improve their mental wellbeing through exercise and physical activity.



Neonatal Unit Care Packages offer crucial support to families during unexpected and stressful hospital stays. Nurturing Regional NICU Families aims to close the gap for families with premature babies living in rural, regional and remote WA through free access to an online program supporting connection, bonding and developmental milestones.



Transplant Australia supports WA paediatric transplant recipients and their families through a dedicated camp experience. The camp is designed to build a connected community of peers, and improve their mental and physical wellbeing.



Type 1 Diabetes (T1D) Family Centre supports people with T1D to live a life full of joy and happiness. T1D Empower is a mentoring program for teens which supports the development of coping strategies, resilience and strong support networks. Community-based blood glucose testing will increase access to vital testing, improving health outcomes.



The University of Western Australia is undertaking various research projects aimed at improving health outcomes for children. This includes research into childhood diseases, exercise therapy for children with central auditory processing disorder, reducing pre-surgery fasting distress, preventing childhood asthma, and investigating the intergenerational impact of lifestyle, health and environment.



Variety's Motor Mouth Camp helps give a voice to children with complex communication needs. The family-inclusive camp combines fun with intensive therapy and support from volunteer speech pathologists and occupational therapists for children who use augmentative and alternative communication devices - opening up a new world of communication.



Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) is the most common genetic cardiovascular disorder in WA. Currently, HCM onset and severity cannot be predicted. Victor Chang Institute will develop a tool to assist in identifying the likelihood that children will develop HCM, enabling earlier and more precise treatment.



The Kickability in Schools program empowers children with disability to participate in Aussie rules football, fostering connection and enhancing physical and mental wellbeing. A new "convergence container" boosts inclusivity by offering a calming space for children with sensory sensitivities to take a break while attending community events.

The WA Child Research Fund supports research leading to better health outcomes for children and adolescents in WA. It promotes the translation of research findings into evidence-based health policy and practice, and contributes to integrating research capability across universities, research institutes and health services.

WADSA

WA Disabled Sports Association programs offer children with severe and complex disabilities the opportunity to access adaptive equipment to improve physical engagement and social wellbeing, as well as build confidence, self-advocacy, problem-solving and communication through sports and recreation.



WAAT Dogs supports children with disabilities and their families in acquiring an assistance or therapy dog. It provides empowerment, support and professional training to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities or health conditions in WA.

Improving sepsis care and outcomes

Sepsis is a dangerous condition that can be difficult to diagnose and treat in children. Tragically, survivors and their families face lifelong health impacts.

Jacob's health suddenly turned for the worse at six years old. His family knew something was wrong; he'd lost his usual energy and was not eating. Jacob was eventually diagnosed with streptococcal, which led to sepsis and other complications.

Jacob's mum, Dianna, said: "This was a very traumatic time for our family. We were all very emotional and worried about his condition. As his mum, I can easily say this was my life's worst and most stressful time."

Jacob has been on a long journey towards recovery. He has endured countless procedures and an extended hospital stay, including a gruelling fortnight in intensive care.

Supported by Telethon, the **Child and Adolescent Health Service** will launch a new care pathway to support survivors and bereaved families with individualised and culturally appropriate care.

By working together, Telethon and the Child and Adolescent Health Service are committed to providing the best possible care and improving long-term health outcomes for WA children diagnosed with sepsis.





Wheels for Hope delivers the gift of mobility by providing loan wheelchair-accessible transport to assist WA families with disability. The loan transport enables vital access to medical and remedial care, education, family and community activities.



The Family Sponsorship program provides children with disabilities access to therapy services where other funding options are not available. The Equipment Loan Library allows children to trial speech output devices and frame runners, improving communication and mobility. An inclusive Athletics Day will build children's self-confidence and celebrate their efforts.



The Women and Infants Research Foundation is one of Australia's leading independent research institutions dedicated to improving the health of women and infants. Its research aims to decrease fetal harm, improve outcomes for preterm babies and use AI to enhance care for children with rare diseases.



As the only youth-specialist, non-government mental health service in WA, Youth Focus ensures young people can thrive by providing access to mental health support at no-cost, when and where they need it most. Counselling services change the lives of thousands of vulnerable young people, across metropolitan and regional WA.



YouthCARE is WA's leading provider of pastoral care and values education programs in more than 600 school communities. The organisation promotes social, emotional and educational outcomes for students and families in regional and remote WA.



The Kimberley region has the highest rates of hospitalisation for self-harm in those under the age of 24 in WA. Zero2hero aims to combat this by providing mental health programs for vulnerable children in the region, equipping them with skills and knowledge to navigate mental health challenges.

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. Along with many awards, Kerry 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 Creative Australia.



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 largescale 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

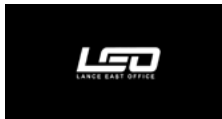
Guy is an experienced former journalist and public sector professional who currently works as an adviser at Australian Capital Equity. Prior to his current role, Guy was chief-of-staff to Mark McGowan for nine years, including the last four while in government. With a background in journalism, corporate 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 our partners

The record-breaking Telethon fundraising total was made possible by the generosity of the whole of Western Australia. Thank you to the 2023 partners which made an incredible contribution.



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Telethon holds a special place in the heart of the WA community.

From fundraising challenges to bake sales and birthday donations, in 2023 the WA community rallied behind Telethon like never before.

A heartfelt thank you to the inspiring community fundraisers and schools whose contributions make a significant impact on children in Western Australia.





Telethon Weekend 2023 highlights

Telethon Weekend was a vibrant celebration filled with energy and heart.

The 26-hour broadcast featured stellar music performances and entertaining acts, highlighting the spirit of giving. With record-breaking fundraising, the total raised over 56 years now exceeds an incredible \$600 million.

The beloved Telethon Family Festival drew in 100,000 families to celebrate the event, showcasing the enduring generosity of the WA community.



telethon

2023





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

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