

The Most Australian



ONE VENTILATOR.
TWO TINY LIVES.

THE GREATEST GIFT

WA COMMUNITY
SUPPORT GIVES
CRITICALLY
ILL BABIES A
FIGHTING CHANCE
TO SURVIVE
& THRIVE

Picture: Daniel Wilkins

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

Thank you to our customers and team members who dug deep once again and raised more than \$706,000 in 2024 to help sick kids from across the state.

coles

PROUDLY SUPPORTING
telethon 7



LOCAL HEROES SMASH PAST \$1M IN FUNDS

ALISON WAKEHAM

Telethon is built on much more than the largesse of governments and the generous bank cheques of big industry.

It has its foundations firmly set in a remarkable WA community that has never wavered in its efforts to support sick children since Telethon came into being in 1968.

It is the schools, the sporting clubs, the community groups, the families and the individuals who each year raise money for those less fortunate and power the community spirit that makes this fundraiser the envy of the world.

Their spirit shines in the community cake and lemonade stalls, in the kids reading books or running laps to raise money and in the individuals who set themselves a daunting goal and find sponsors to support them.

For the first time in the six decades of Telethon's existence, these community fundraisers last year hit an historic milestone, exceeding \$1 million in a landmark accomplishment to deliver more than \$1.3m to the overall total raised.

This figure does not include the kids who happily gave up their pocket money, who donated at supermarkets, online, or picked up the phone to donate during the 26-hour broadcast.

It does, however, include Andy Donaldson, who swam from Rottnest to Elizabeth Quay raising more than \$30,000. And Joshua Ferguson, a young personal trainer who ran 50km a day for 50 days raising almost \$13,000.

Then, there are the kids such as Jade Winder and her siblings Thomas and Hope, who have been fundraising for Telethon for years. And Cupcake King Quentin Fitzgerald, who has been selling sweet treats since he was six, raising \$12,000 last year.

Premier Roger Cook said that while the major contributors were important, the essence of the event was ordinary West Australians giving what they could.



Joyce Mwenda, Isabella Suckling and Noah Weddikara. Picture: Jackson Flindell

Brave girl's battle is inspiration for kids

Primary school children read 14,000 books in a month to raise \$7500

ALISON WAKEHAM

Little Florence Shanks has long inspired those around her with the tenacity and good cheer she summons each day to fight a complex congenital heart condition.

When she was named as one of four Little Telethon Stars last year her school mates took that as inspiration, resolving to work to raise money to help Florence, pictured right, and every other sick child touched by Telethon.

The junior school community at Peter Carnley Anglican Community School, which has campuses at Wellard and Calista and which Florence attends, set off on a mission to read as many books as possible over four weeks.

Armed with a sheet of cardboard, the students were asked to log every book they read and

every sponsor they had found. They took to their task with the energy and enthusiasm only children can muster, reading a total of more than 14,000 books and raising more than \$7500.

Their important contribution also became part of something much bigger — the wonderful network of schools around the State whose students are committed each year to helping those less fortunate.

Year 6 student Isabella Suckling loves curling up with a book — particularly Erin Hunter's Warriors series — and said she was driven to read more than usual because she was helping others through Telethon.

"It made me feel good," she said.

Year 4 student Noah Weddikara — who likes anything by David Walliams — and Joyce Mwenda, who is in Year 3 and

into the Billie B Brown series by Sally Rippin, also said they felt good knowing they were helping other children.

Kierin Janes, the head of junior school, said children relating to other children was a big part of the readathon's success.

"It is important for children to develop empathy and this makes it very real," she said.

"We are part of a global community and the children learn there are people beyond our gates who need assistance."

It was also important students did something that required effort to achieve their goals.

"Acts of service should also include an effort component so that the students can recognise that the effort of each individual is required in achieving something together," Ms Janes said.



From the community, to hospitals, researchers and doctors, every ounce of support flows on to WA's very special children and families who need a little extra help

Joining the dots to help WA families

RHIANNA MITCHELL

When 19-month-old Quinn Crouch received her first automated delivery of insulin via cutting-edge technology in February, it was a full-circle moment which had its beginnings on Telethon weekend in 2023.

From the generous donors all over WA to the dedicated volunteers, the researchers, medical staff and, of course, the children who benefit, each donation to Telethon becomes part of an incredible chain of compassion.

Each link leads to tangible, life-changing and potentially life-saving outcomes for children like Quinn, who was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in February.

Thanks to Telethon funding, Quinn and other newly diagnosed WA children with type 1 diabetes, have access to the latest insulin delivery technology at no cost.

The "game changing" hybrid closed-loop system contains a blood glucose monitor and automated insulin pump, putting an end to insulin injections which can be traumatic and challenging for young children.

While the glucose monitors are government-funded, the insulin pumps normally cost up to \$10,000 a year, placing them out of many families' reach — until now.

Diabetes specialist Kate Lomax, who is based in the department of endocrinology and diabetes at Perth Children's Hospital, was awarded

a Child and Adolescent Health Service-Telethon Fellowship last year. Dr Lomax hopes to prove a case for subsidising the devices and creating equity of care for all children with type 1 diabetes.

"There are many patients who struggle to access the best therapy, so the research Telethon supported me to get off the ground was the idea that if we reduce the barriers and increase the equity in terms of access to HCL systems for all of our families, from right at the beginning of diagnosis, we're trying to prove that is beneficial for them in the longer term," she said.

"What happens to their anxiety levels, their sleep levels, their diabetes distress is what the project focuses on. We're following their outcomes for two years post-diagnosis to give a long-term picture. The point is to change policy and inform policy."

Dr Lomax said managing diabetes was very difficult in young children because of their unpredictable eating habits and physical activity.

So far, the feedback from parents using the insulin pumps was overwhelmingly positive.

"Type 1 diabetes is lifelong, there's no cure," she said.

"It's totally relentless for the families. It's a really tricky illness to manage, especially in little ones, so this is taking away so much of that burden and stress."

Between 130 and 150 children are diagnosed with type 1

diabetes in WA each year.

Among them is little Quinn, a bright and bubbly toddler who, mum Kaitlyn says, has navigated the unexpected diagnosis like a "trooper".

Mrs Crouch's nursing background proved vital for her daughter when, in early February, she noticed Quinn had a thirst for water "she could not quench".

Recognising this as a symptom of diabetes, she went to her doctor, who ordered blood tests.

Two days later, a phlebologist called and told Mrs Crouch to get her daughter straight to PCH for an urgent insulin infusion.

Upon diagnosis, Quinn was eligible for access to the insulin pump and glucose monitor.

"There is no good way for your child to become sick, but by joining this program we've had the best experience, and so much support from the amazing team," Mrs Crouch said. "(The technology) has made our lives so much easier."

"If we were doing insulin injections, I wouldn't have her in day care, I wouldn't be back at work. I hope one day they can make this available for everyone as it's the gold standard."

CHAIN OF COMPASSION

THE DONORS

Cooper Taylor, eight, was inspired by Telethon 2024 and Nedd Brockmann's incredible journey across Australia when he decided to run 100km in 100 days to raise money for sick kids. "It's been a good challenge for him," his dad Ben said. "To his credit, he's always whacked his shoes every day." So far he's raised \$2755.

THE VOLUNTEERS

Telethon would not be possible without the incredible efforts of volunteers like Sarah Hynes, Peta and Ian Small, and Tina Fiora. Between them they have volunteered on Telethon weekend for more than 80 years. "Volunteers are such a great bunch of people. Everyone gives up their time and is so willing to do whatever is needed to get the job done," says Ms Small, who alongside husband Ian is one of the drivers.

THE MEDICAL SPECIALISTS

Kate Lomax, left, was awarded a CAHS-Telethon fellowship to explore improved models of care in children with type 1 diabetes.

THE BENEFICIARIES

Quinn Crouch, who has T1D, has been given access to the latest insulin delivery technology at no cost.



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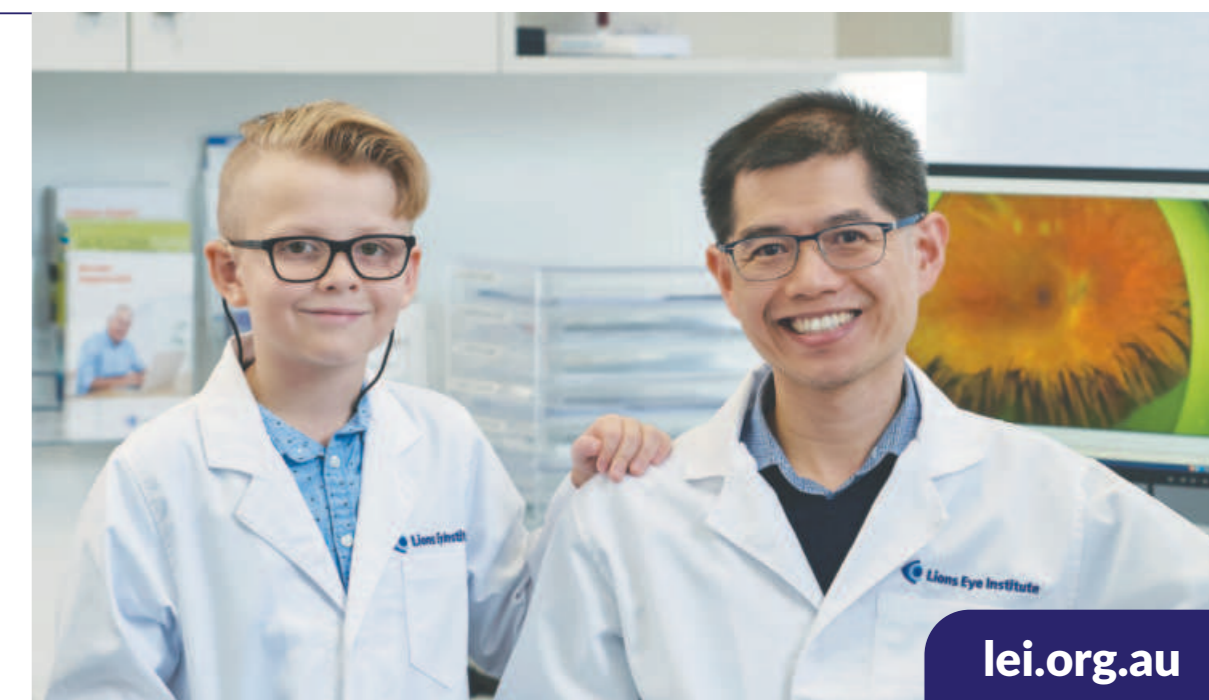
The Crown Resorts Foundation is proud to have been a million dollar partner to Telethon, playing a vital role in supporting the health of Western Australia's children.

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



Lions Eye Institute

Thank you for helping the children of WA to see their future.



lei.org.au

State-of-the-art Telethon-funded equipment has made a big difference for Iris and Charlie Liebeck

Perth twins' miraculous start to life

RHIANNA MITCHELL

As Hayley Morgan and Aaron Liebeck gaze down at their tiny newborn twins Charlie and Iris, their eyes contain all the love, pain, wonder, worry and relief of the past few years.

These miracle babies are here, against all the odds, thanks to their parents' unwavering strength and determination, the efforts of dedicated medical staff and state-of-the-art, Telethon-funded equipment which has given them the best possible start to life.

The couple had been undergoing IVF for five traumatic, expensive and heartbreaking years when, about 12 months

ago, they had started to contemplate the devastating potential that parenthood might not be in their future.

"We were running out of embryos, looking down the barrel of doing another collection, or taking a break, it was getting pretty stressful," Mr Liebeck said.

On advice from their fertility specialists the couple opted to implant their two remaining embryos in the hope "one might work".

To their joy, and disbelief, Ms Morgan fell pregnant with twins.

The couple will never forget the moment they saw the two little sacs at their first ultra-

sound — a moment they thought might never come.

"We went from feeling like the unluckiest people in the world to the luckiest people in the world; we've got twins, a boy and a girl, we couldn't believe it," Mr Liebeck said.

But with their joy came fear, when Iris's placenta stopped working at 32 weeks, meaning the babies had to be delivered five weeks earlier than planned.

On February 27, Iris, weighing just 1.5kg, and big brother Charlie, at 1.99kg, were delivered via C-section at St John of God Hospital in Subiaco.

It was immediately clear that the siblings needed urgent assistance.



Charlie Liebeck on the Drager Babylog Ventilator.

Charlie became floppy, requiring immediate resuscitation and moments after Iris was placed in her mother's arms, she too needed medical attention.

"I was watching her and I went 'oh, she's not breathing'. She started going a bit blue and the

neonatologist whisked her away," Ms Morgan said.

"They were being worked on at the same time, so it was pretty scary, especially for Aaron who was stuck in the middle like 'where do I go'."

Her husband added: "I was



Iris and Charlie with their parents Hayley Morgan and Aaron Liebeck
Picture: Daniel Wilkins

HOW YOU HELPED: DRAGER VENTILATORS

ST JOHN OF GOD Foundation

IMPACT REACH:

Three Drager Babylog Ventilators (Two at SJOG Subiaco and one at SJOG Midland)

DIRECT OUTCOMES:

Vital temporary ventilation is provided for babies in severe respiratory distress or born with life-threatening conditions.

Having the ventilators at SJOG means fewer babies need to be transferred to King Edward Memorial Hospital or Perth Children's Hospital and can stay with their mums.

The ventilator is also used to provide critically ill babies with ventilation while they wait for transfer to KEMH or PCH.

going on. When I was able to see them, it was pretty scary to see the CPAP on Iris and Charlie on the ventilator, it was confronting how small they were," she said.

"Everyone was really amazing, they were educating us on what was going on and they were really supportive."

The couple finally got to take their babies home last week.

Mr Liebeck said it was only once the twins were out of the woods that the stress of those first few hours sunk in.

"You're just so happy you've got these kids, the enormity of it all. I don't think it quite registered how much help they needed. A ventilator is a pretty big deal," he said.

"It's hard to think that if we didn't have all this equipment, kids born this early might not survive. We can't thank everyone enough."

The ventilator is also used on critically ill babies while they wait for transfer to King Edward Memorial Hospital or Perth Children's Hospital.

St John of God Foundation associate director of philanthropy Hannah Weir said the equipment was already making an enormous difference to the hospital's smallest patients.

"We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Telethon and the West Australian community for their generous support," she said.

"Your contributions have made a lifesaving impact, funding a ventilator that will provide critical care to newborn babies in need.

"Together, we are giving these tiny warriors the best possible care."

shell-shocked, I was scared for them. They're getting resuscitated, Hayley's cut open on the table.

"It was pretty special what those people did in that room. I was the only one panicking, they knew what to do, it was amazing,

they got them breathing again."

The emergency didn't end there. Both babies were in respiratory distress and needed further help breathing.

Iris was fitted with a continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) machine, meanwhile

Charlie's condition was more serious. He was placed on one of three new Telethon-funded ventilators acquired by the SJOG Foundation in July. The Drager Babylog Ventilators offer vital temporary ventilation for babies born with critical, life-threaten-

ing conditions. Charlie was kept on the ventilator for 24 hours and, for the first six torturous hours, Ms Morgan was unable to be with her newborns as she was recovering from surgery.

"It was really hard to be away and not know what was really

We've been invested in Telethon since the beginning.

Proud partner for 58 years.



bankwest

Meet Alecia and her mum, Allana

Thanks to Wheels for Hope, they now have a wheelchair-accessible van – opening a world of possibilities. From visiting friends, to getting to school, the van has given Alecia freedom and independence.

MinRes is proud to partner with Telethon and support Wheels for Hope to deliver the gift of mobility. With a fleet of 38 insured, licensed and serviced vans, the charity is supporting WA families who live with disability.

Wheels for hope
changing lives through mobility

MINERAL RESOURCES



A study boosted by Telethon hopes to make coping with gestational diabetes a little easier

A light on pregnancy risk

CLAIRE SADLER

Rihanna's weeks were already busy as an expectant mother, but a gestational diabetes diagnosis increased her mental load tenfold.

Suddenly her days were filled with pin-pricks to her finger after every meal to check her blood-glucose levels, planning out every meal and attending extra appointments.

A study, which has been boosted thanks to Telethon funding, is hoping to pave the way for improved testing and management of the condition that affects one in six pregnancies in Australia, with cases trebling over the past decade.

The Sweet Mum and Baby study is the most comprehensive of its kind in WA, comparing outcomes for babies born to mothers with diagnosed gestational diabetes, those who tested negative and those who declined screening, in a bid to improve care for expectant moms.

Gestational diabetes mellitus is caused by a hormone made by the placenta, which prevents the body from using insulin effectively. This means mothers with the condition must follow a strict diet to keep their blood-sugar levels in check.

Rihanna, pictured right, welcomed her healthy baby Lawrie

six months ago, but her pregnancy was made more stressful by her diagnosis. "You have to do an overhaul of your diet and exercise, your appointments double, and there's also that mental load of the risk for your newborn baby," she said.

"I was working full-time in quite a hectic job. There's a lot of meal planning that goes into it so it's taking packed lunches or ensuring when you do go out with friends and family that you can eat what's on the menu."

"The impact of this is massive because it's your health and it's your baby's health. Every woman wants to get that right, and there is a lot of guilt involved if you don't get it right."

Infants born to mothers with GDM face higher risks of pre-term birth, low birth weight, respiratory distress syndrome, and long-term health issues such as type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease and obesity.

Lead investigator Zoe Bradfield, who works at Curtin University and King Edward Memorial Hospital, said she hoped the study would improve management of the condition.

"The cognitive load amplifies 1000 per cent overnight just from that diagnosis, and that's just about GDM. That's not also about maintaining other general health, growing a healthy baby,

"We know that GDM has an impact on short-term and long-term health for both women and their babies, so this is massive for preventative health."

FIRST-TIME MOTHER RIHANNA

and preparation for parenthood," she said.

"These are significant burdens women are silently carrying, and it's time that we actually shine a light on what's happening for women throughout this testing and diagnosis journey."

Dr Bradfield said the urgent need for this study was also underscored by a rise in cases across Australia and a rise in women declining to be tested.

To test for GDM, pregnant women have to fast overnight and have a blood test, then drink a large sugary solution before having blood tests again one and two hours later.

"The oral glucose tolerance test largely hasn't changed in almost 70 years," Dr Bradfield said. "We've heard anecdotally from women that for some it can be quite uncomfortable."

"So to really shine a light on women's experiences is an important part of us being able to improve the way we care for people."

To be a part of the survey visit, <https://redcap.link/zpxjtkfx>.



HOW YOU HELPED
WOMEN & INFANTS RESEARCH FOUNDATION



IMPACT REACH: Researchers are building new mechanisms and procedures to improve GDM testing for expectant mothers.

DIRECT OUTCOMES: Guiding 1400 women into critical health services after an early GDM diagnosis.

Inclusive sports a hop, step and jump away

JESSICA EVENSEN

For 15-year-old Claudia Flamini, sport is a way of life. The Yancheep teen — who has autism — has been a dedicated shot put, long jump and 1500m athlete as long as she can remember.

Along with her siblings, Sienna and Adriano, Claudia is an avid participant of the Special Olympics, a global program bringing "sport, joy and inclusion to people with intellectual disabilities and autism".

"I was part of a mainstream athletics club but I wasn't coping with friends and I felt so alone... so my mum found out about the Special Olympics where I joined and made a good group of friends," Claudia said.

"The environment in Special Olympics felt safer to me because I connected with people better and I felt a sense of belonging."

In 2023, Claudia travelled to Tasmania to compete in the Special Olympics national championships track and field event.

"We did team relays which was probably the most fun experi-



Siblings Claudia, 15, Sienna, 9, and Adriano Flamini, 13, from Yancheep at the WA Athletics Stadium. Picture: Matt Jelonek

ence ever because we all got to cheer for each other," she said.

A new Telethon grant means the Special Olympics can extend its education arm and enlist local coaches to teach kids with intellectual disabilities and autism — like Claudia — sport in schools across Perth and Bunbury. "The funding will support



Special Olympics Australia

the delivery of the program to alleviate some of those pressures and stresses on teachers and schools," program manager Sean Douglas said.

The program — Inclusive Sports in Schools — will start in Term 2, run for eight weeks and aims to reach up to 150 students. Kids will be taught team

sports such as AFL, cricket and soccer, while kindergarten and preschool students will learn fundamental motor skills including balance, hopping and skipping.

"We're not just looking at the physical development of students; we're also looking at their social and emotional cognitive abilities like problem solving, teamwork, taking turns and being a good winner," Mr

Douglas said. "The program gives the ability for those young people to feel part of their school community and be part of every other opportunity their peers get to participate in," he said.

"For students who might not be familiar with kids with a disability... it's breaking down barriers and becoming aware that people with disabilities are capable."

We think of the kids so they can think about their next magic potion

For 35 years Telethon and the Western Australian community have ensured our researchers can think of the kids. There's always more thinking to be done, whether it's about childhood cancer, new vaccines, or making it easier for kids with asthma to breathe. That thinking leaves the lab and changes lives, so kids can get back to being kids.

Thank you WA. Learn about our groundbreaking research at thekids.org.au



We are proud to support Telethon

We are again delighted to be a million-dollar partner of Telethon.

Inspired by the leadership of our Executive Chairman, Mrs Gina Rinehart AO, Hancock Prospecting companies and its people are committed to generously giving to Telethon, funding life changing medical research, vital equipment, and essential programs that help children thrive.

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Built on the foundations of a
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Located in the northern beach community of Seaside, this year's Telethon Home is one of the most spectacular yet. Just a short stroll to the turquoise waters and crystal sands of Madora Beach, Seaside represents coastal living at its very finest.

We're delighted to have once again donated the land for this year's home, knowing its contribution will help support thousands of WA kids in need.

 satterley.com.au



Growing wise on good food

School kids get hands-on lessons on healthy eating

RHIANNA MITCHELL

Vulnerable WA children are being given the skills to grow, harvest and cook nutritious food through a Telethon-funded program aimed at reducing food insecurity and improving health and wellbeing for families affected by poverty.

EON Foundation builds edible gardens in remote Aboriginal schools and communities for a secure supply of fresh fruit and vegetables.

The foundation also delivers hands-on, fun nutrition and gardening education to empower children, gifting them with life-long skills and habits.

Thanks to Telethon funding, EON has expanded its Thriving Communities Program to Rangeway Primary School in Geraldton, where more than 85 per cent of students are disadvantaged.

EON chief executive Kathryn Taylor said the program not only ensured vulnerable children had enough to eat, it was having long-term health impacts.

“There is a ripple effect throughout communities when kids are eating healthy, nutritious food, from being able to turn up and learn and concen-



HOW YOU HELPED:
EON FOUNDATION

IMPACT REACH: 173 students at Rangeway Primary School through 182 lessons.

DIRECT OUTCOMES:
A lush edible garden was built at the school as a cornerstone for delivering activities aimed at improving health, nutrition and wellbeing of vulnerable children in the community.

Aliarna Comery and Shane Clinch, right, from Rangeway Primary School take part in the Thriving Communities program. Pictures: Briar Reynolds



get tight is fresh fruit and veg because often it's not affordable, and prices are sky high in some of these areas," she said.

“But, of course, it's affordable to grow your own so this (program) is easy access, sustainable and affordable. We wouldn't have been able to start at Rangeway if not for Telethon so it is absolutely vital in terms of outcomes.”

trate in class, to better health," she said.

“Good nutrition means some diseases are preventable, such as type 2 diabetes which is at pandemic levels throughout Aboriginal communities.

“Kids are learning through curiosity and fun in a beautiful, safe environment; they are getting to taste and experiment and feel a sense of pride.”

Ms Taylor said the cost-of-living crisis meant food insecurity

also impacted families in middle to high socio-economic areas, who struggled to put nutritious food on the table.

“It comes down to affordability. One of the first things in a family budget to go when things

Embassy initiative ensures kids receive critical checks

HANNAH CROSS

Binar Futures is going above and beyond to help close the gap in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander outcomes through an innovative health initiative.

Best known for its popular basketball tournaments, the non-profit organisation runs programs in sport, culture, youth leadership and development. Binar Futures expanded that reach into health last year with its first round of the Binar Health Embassy.

Designed to promote health and wellbeing among First Nations young people, the embassy initiative was underpinned by the importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people having genuine input into health strategy and promotion. Binar Futures engaged with several Aboriginal community controlled health organisations as well as Respiratory Care WA, St John of God Health Care, MDA National, and more, to provide access to critical health checks at Binar tournaments in a culturally safe environment.

Participants were given a “health passport” that was stamped at each health station they visited for checks, including blood pressure, haemoglobin, blood sugar, skin, hearing and lung function, earning them a Binar shirt and a basketball once complete.

The successful



initiative saw more than 3000 health checks conducted in 2024, with Binar Health Embassies reaching 823 children across four locations and identifying almost 100 issues requiring further attention.

Driven by a desire for all kids to have access to pre-emptive health checks, Binar Futures chair and Perth Wildcats great Andrew Vlahov said everyone at the organisation believes the Health Embassy is “a great innovation”.

“The Health Embassies are creating a platform for communities to access health resources, foster greater knowledge, and drive change from within,” he said.

“We are excited to see the continued growth of this initiative and its long-term benefits for our communities.”

With Telethon's support, Binar Futures aims to expand its Health Embassy initiative, integrating free medical check-ups, health education and mental wellbeing support alongside their basketball tournaments and regional camps in two new locations in the Kimberley and Pilbara.

The embassy has already ticked off the Great Southern Basketball Carnival in Albany for 2025, and will hit Bunbury in April, Perth in July as part of a new NAIDOC tournament, and Broome in October.



Support Telethon to help kids in need. Challenge accepted.

Our employee volunteers at the Telethon Call Centre were inspired by the generosity of Western Australians. As a proud community member, we're excited to see the impact our donation of over \$1 million will have for WA kids in need.

To find out more about Woodside's contributions in WA, visit [woodside.com/social-contribution](https://www.woodside.com/social-contribution)



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Oliver Van Der Meulen, Caleb Bickers, Kayden Fairclough and Ekroop Sangha at Durham Road School. Picture: Ian Munro

Pride and joy that comes from doing it for the kids

How the remarkable students at WA's largest education support school gain by giving back

ALISON WAKEHAM

The students at Durham Road School face challenges every day but given the chance to help other children in need, they didn't hesitate.

From cooking pancakes, to a sausage sizzle, from wearing crazy socks and pyjamas, to taking part in a fun run, the students and staff, parents and friends who support them raised \$4000 for Telethon in their first fundraising year.

The challenge of working together to help others in hardship was empowering; the joy it brought contagious.

The entire school community knew they had achieved something very special.

Durham Road, in Bayswater, is the largest education support school in the State, catering for children from Kindergarten to Year 12 with intellectual disabilities, physical disabilities, sensory impairments and challenging behaviours.

Students endure regular visits to hospitals and specialists and often require cutting-edge medical and health treatments to help support and improve their quality of life.

But give them an important job to do and they prove how strong and remarkable they truly are.

The fundraising events were run throughout the school year and planned around the students' sensory needs and physical capabilities.

Events were tailored so that each felt included.

Premier Roger Cook has plans to harness the enthusiasm of schools and their students and this year launched the inaugural Premier's Telethon Challenge to encourage more to get involved.

There will be awards for the highest-fundraising primary school and high school and also prizes for writing, with children encouraged to tell of their experiences or feelings about Telethon.

But the students at Durham Road School already know that fundraising for others brings far greater rewards — a sense of pride and joy and the understanding that a group of people can achieve amazing things when they come together for a common cause.

They plan to set sail on a new fundraising adventure this year and reckon that every other school should get on board to do as much as possible to support Telethon 2025 and beyond.

With Telethon's support, we've empowered Western Australians to realise their abilities

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Ability
WA



Camp gives back precious moments of childhood taken away by cancer

Quality time for families

CLAIRE SADLER

"I think it's cancer." That is what Erin Blight told her nine-year-old daughter in the moments after she received a phone call telling her to see the doctor as soon as possible.

The next day she was diagnosed with an aggressive stage 2, grade 3 breast cancer, which had spread to her lymph nodes.

The prognosis dramatically changed life for Ms Blight and her young children, Layne and Jake.

A gruelling 15-month treatment regime of surgeries, chemotherapy and radiation often meant Ms Blight's children missed out on childhood fun.

"The diagnosis has changed nearly every aspect of my life

and family, both negatively and positively," Ms Blight said.

"The diagnosis was stressful and scary for all of us, it brought about uncertainty, a change in roles and routine for the family, and made us question what is really important."

Camp Quality is helping families like Ms Blight's get back precious missed family time, thanks to Telethon funding.

Family camps provide a break from cancer for children affected by a caregiver's diagnosis. Now on the other side of her treatment, Ms Blight's family attended a weekend camp in Como which involved fun activities for the children, as well as time to connect as a family.

"Camp Quality has helped my children deal with my cancer diagnosis by, firstly, giving it a tan-



Erin Blight with her children Jake and Layne at the Camp Quality family camp in Como. Picture: Ross Swanborough

HOW YOU HELPED: CAMP QUALITY

IMPACT REACH: 197 families, which included 394 kids and 367 parents, were supported through the Kids Impacted by a Carer's Cancer program in 2024.



DIRECT OUTCOMES: Family Camps support kids to feel understood, increase confidence and self-esteem, have quality time with family, have time out from the cancer experience, and reduce social isolation.

and as part of a cancer stricken family."

Camp Quality chief executive Deborah Thomas said the beneficiary was "incredibly grateful" for the support from Telethon.

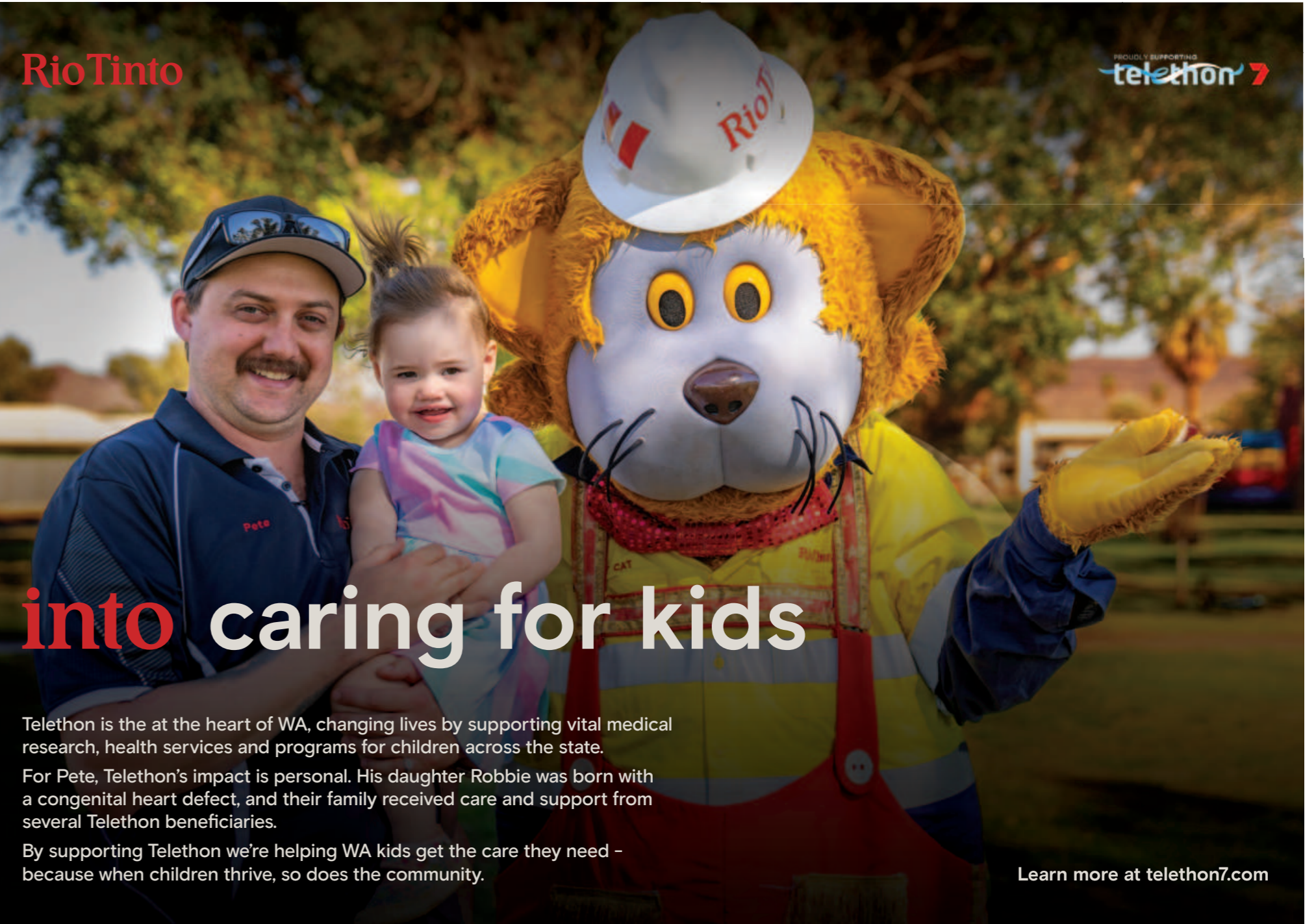
"With this generous funding we can help even more families in WA get a break from the brutal realities of cancer," she said.

"Our family camps and family fun days give kids and parents the opportunity to have fun, as well as meet other families who share their experience."

gible silver lining," she said. "We try to look for the positives and didn't need to look hard — the opportunity to take this much-needed family break and recon-

nect is only due to my diagnosis. "But, more importantly, the camp has helped the kids, by creating a safe space to talk, play and be themselves, as individ-

RioTinto



into caring for kids

Telethon is at the heart of WA, changing lives by supporting vital medical research, health services and programs for children across the state.

For Pete, Telethon's impact is personal. His daughter Robbie was born with a congenital heart defect, and their family received care and support from several Telethon beneficiaries.

By supporting Telethon we're helping WA kids get the care they need — because when children thrive, so does the community.

Learn more at telethon7.com

Medical marvel transforms kids into heroes

To their families, these brave children are heroes for the strength they show while dealing with life-threatening illness.

And now, they look and feel the part too thanks to a Telethon-funded initiative providing medical garments disguised as superhero costumes for children facing serious or long-term illness in hospital.

Supertees are cotton garments with side and top openings enabling parents and hospital staff to easily change clothing and access or bypass medical lines.

They come in three different designs: Marvel characters Captain America and Captain Marvel and the Supertee Space Commander.

First-time beneficiary Supertee will be able to support 1500 children in five different WA hospitals thanks to Telethon.

The Supertee was created by Jason Sotiris, inspired by his daughter Angela's cancer diagnosis in 2013.

Mr Sotiris said he felt helpless seeing his little girl go through painful and unpleasant procedures and treatment.

As he sat by her bedside one day, Angela vomited from nausea caused by the chemotherapy.

Struggling to change her clothes without disturbing her tubes and lines, Mr Sotiris realised he could do something to help other families in a similar situation.

He began researching the "alter ego effect" and how adopting a different persona is a form of "self-distancing" that can reduce anxiety and increase confidence.

Over the next two years, Mr Sotiris, who had no design or engineering experience, created the Supertee, inspired by his son, Teo.

"He inspired the superhero idea," he said. "He would have been about three and he came into the bedroom dressed as a superhero with this look on his face."

The charity has come a long way since Mr Sotiris paid out of his own pocket for 1000 garments to be made 10 years ago.

More than

SUPER TEE

25,000 children have become a Supertee superhero in 92 hospitals across Australia.

"The fact that Telethon supported us is a great honour because they see that Supertees are making a difference currently in hospitals," he said.

LUKAS HALEY

Lukas' cancer battle began when he was just two and a half years old.

For months his mum Sharon Vidler knew something was wrong with her little boy — he was falling over a lot, slurring his words and was extremely fatigued.

"It was over four months that we were fighting for answers," Ms Vidler said. "He gave himself his first concussion, and he just didn't really bounce back as he usually would."

Lukas' parents took him to hospital where their nightmare was realises as he was diagnosed with brain cancer.

"We didn't even have an overnight bag or anything. We thought we'd just be in and come back out," Ms Vidler said.

Lukas was transferred from Fiona Stanley Hospital to Perth Children's Hospital for life-saving surgery and treatment.

Over the next week, the toddler had a CT scan, a two-hour MRI

Superhero medical garments empower brave WA kids like Lukas, Riley, Josephine and Alex, write **Angela Pownall and Claire Sadler**

scan and three operations to investigate and remove tumours and fluid on his brain.

Ms Vidler said Lukas was given a Captain America Supertee soon after he was admitted as he didn't have any spare clothes.

"It's been a really bumpy ride. But the Supertees are honestly amazing. They're his favourite T-shirt," she said.

Now Lukas has the Space Ambassador Supertee as well.

"He takes his rocket ship pillow to hospital with him and he puts it on his bed. We call the MRI machine a rocket ship, so he's going for a rocket ship ride," Ms Vidler said. "The Supertee makes it easier to get him dressed and undressed if he needs to get changed. When the nurses do blood draws in the morning, they don't want to wake him so they can just pop his T-shirt open and

not have to worry about disturbing him.

"They're bright and colourful. When you go into hospital, it's very white or yellow and clinical. Just seeing that little pop of colour on that big white bed is quite nice as well."

Lukas has recently finished a course of chemotherapy, which was unfortunately not successful. But he is now taking a trial medication, which is working to stop the tumours growing for as long as possible until he has radiation treatment.

For now, this young superhero is enjoying more time at home in Port Kennedy with his two older sisters and parents.

"He's full of energy at the moment. He's glad he's not having to stay in hospital, which is nice," Ms Vidler said.

RILEY COYNE

Young Riley Coyne becomes the superhero he wants to be when he puts on his Supertee.

The four-year-old and his family, who are from Dunsborough, have had a tumultuous time over the last nine months.

Riley was diagnosed with leukaemia in June last year.

Elysia Coyne said she and husband Paul took Riley to hospital with a swollen lymph node after noticing he was often tired and had bruises.

"Once his lump appeared and wouldn't go down, I had a gut feeling that it could have been something more serious," Mrs Coyne said.

Abnormal blood test results saw Riley sent from Busselton Hospital to Bunbury Hospital and then taken in an ambulance to Perth Children's Hospital.

Since then, Riley, his parents and two-year-old sister Sadie have not been able to return home to the South West because he has been having twice-weekly treatment at PCH.

"We came up here and we haven't been back since," she said.

"We're not allowed to be more than an hour away from the hospital until we finish frontline treatment which will be for the next five months, then we can move back home."

Mr Coyne, a carpenter, has been doing some work in Perth while juggling Riley's frequent hospital appointments and caring for Sadie with his wife.

Riley has a port in his chest and Mrs Coyne said his Supertee made it much easier to access it without having to take his T-shirt off.

"It's just so handy, because he doesn't want to be super exposed all the time," she said.

"The best thing about the shirt is the press studs.

"When he's connected to his chemo medicines and stuff, the cord can hang out the side, so it's not irritating his skin and not annoying him."

Best of all, according to Riley, is his Supertee's cool design.

"He loves it, he thinks he's a superhero," Mrs Coyne said.

"He'll make up his own superhero. It helps them take their mind off things because there's a different conversation to have rather than what's going on."

JOSEPHINE HORTON

Active and fun-loving Josephine faces a daily battle to breathe.

The brave youngster was only three months old when she first became unwell with breathing difficulties.

Her mother Sara Horton said she would go blue and white, was very lethargic and almost unable to be woken up.

"We were living in Coolgardie at the time and I ended up taking her to Kalgoorlie hospital. "She was not well, but we ended up getting discharged and went home again," she said. "It was a fight that there was something wrong with my child. She wasn't breathing properly for two years."

Mrs Horton said a nurse who often saw Josephine in the ED gave them the details of a private respiratory doctor who helped her get further tests at the children's hospital.

Eventually Josephine was diagnosed with bronchiectasis and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Bronchiectasis is a lung disease that occurs when the walls of the airways widen due to chronic inflammation and infection, causing irreversible damage to the lungs and a



Lukas Haley, who has brain cancer, wearing a Supertee. Picture: Ross Swanborough

regular swimming and dancing. "She's a little trooper. You wouldn't pick that there's anything that's not right," Mrs Horton said.

"But when she's sick, she's sick."

ALEX PIANTA

Little warrior Alex has endured more than most in his short life, undergoing three open-heart surgeries in just four years.

The now eight-year-old was born with hypoplastic left heart syndrome — a life-limiting rare congenital defect where the left side of the heart is underdeveloped, making it difficult to pump blood effectively.

"The way his heart was built wasn't compatible with life so the first surgery saved his life," Ms Pianta said.

"At four years old he had a surgery that should hopefully last him for life."

Alex spent weeks in hospital following his latest surgery with IV lines in as well as drains coming out of his chest and stomach.

It was a scary experience for a four-year-old but Alex's Supertee helped him get through.

"I felt super and my mum and dad could get it on me without hurting my sore bits," Alex said.

"He could go in for scans with it on and, as a four-year-old, superheroes are cool so it at least looked fun for him," Ms Pianta said.

"As a parent it was extremely practical not having to manoeuvre things around him." Knowing how much the Supertee helped him, Alex gave the shirt to his friend, who was undergoing the same surgery just six months later.

The family would have also not been able to get through hospital stays without the support of Telethon beneficiary HeartKids, which has been by Alex's side since he was three days old.

"They were one of the first people who stepped up to support us through a really tough, emotional time, because for the first few days they didn't think he was going to make it," Ms Pianta said.

"They now provide social connections for Alex with kids with similar conditions so he doesn't feel isolated and as a parent it gives us someone to talk to."

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Over the past decade, BHP has contributed more than \$45 million to Telethon, helping to improve the lives of children and families in Western Australia.



Scan for more.

Telethon is committed to funding cutting-edge equipment that helps drive world-class medical research right here in WA, writes **Katie Hampson**

The best new tech helping our kids

Nate Fearnall on the Zero G robotic bodyweight support device.
Pictures: Daniel Wilkins

ZERO G

Children who lack skills others take for granted such as walking, sitting and climbing now have the chance to feel like Superman.

The futuristic Zero G 3D robotic dynamic bodyweight support device — a gait and balance system for use in paediatric intensive therapies — protects children from falling while providing advanced body weight support.

The ground-breaking rehabilitation technology, funded by Telethon in partnership with Mineral Resources and Roy Hill, is available for the first time in Australia forming a critical part of The Healthy Strides Foundation's new technology centre of excellence which is helping children with neurological conditions learn skills such as taking their first steps, getting dressed and sitting in a classroom.

"This equipment has been the missing link in rehabilitation practices, providing the perfect combination of current science and state-of-the-art technology to create a bridge between therapy and real life," said Dr Dayna Pool, physiotherapist and clinical lead at The Healthy Strides Foundation.

Children like eight-year-old Nate Fearnall, who was born with cerebral palsy, and spends about two hours three times a week over a month using the robot, which also generates data on his outcomes that can be tracked by clinicians to improve his progress.

The 3D device also allows children like Nate to make errors as they grapple with new motor skills by supporting them to initiate movement and explore their own environment, stimulating the child's visual and brain development.

"I'm much better at walking now because I used to be very

wobbly and I've also learned to jump and go up and down steps after using the Zero G," Nate said.

Through Telethon, a new ZeroG 2D program will be funded at Perth Children's Hospital, making this vital piece of equipment available for more children.

"Rehabilitation robots are one of the most important new therapeutic devices available to improve neurological recovery and long-term functional outcomes for children," Dr Pool said.

ORIGIO MARS IVF SAFETY CLASS 2 WORK STATION

More than 60,000 patients in WA live with a rare disease, yet almost 95 per cent lack an appropriate treatment.

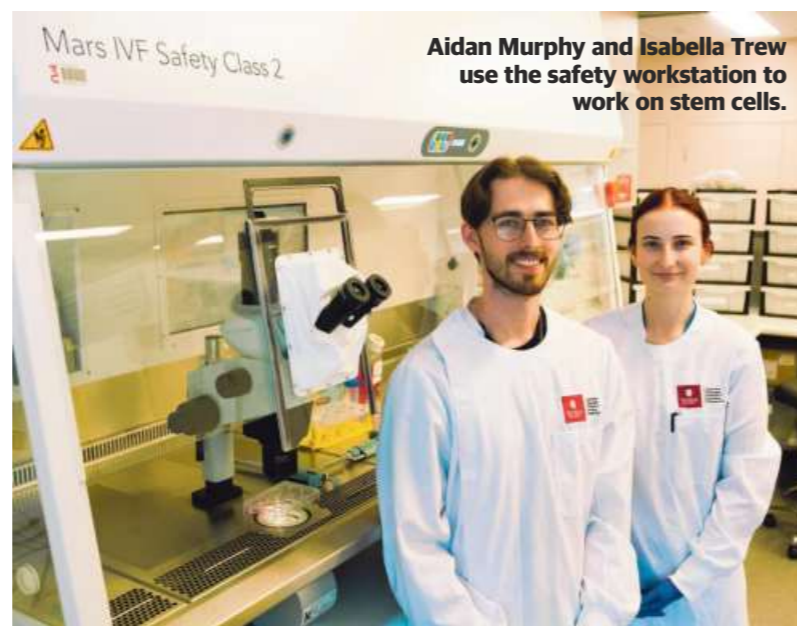
The ORIGIO Mars IVF Safety Class 2 workstation is a crucial Telethon-funded tool that allows scientists to generate patient-specific cells to develop and test treatments for those who otherwise have none.

It's helping children with Batten disease as well as those with Kleefstra, Alport, Malan and Birk-Landau-Perez syndromes, which all severely affect a child's quality of life.

Interestingly, this biological safety cabinet was originally developed for in-vitro fertilization but researchers have adapted it for advanced stem cell culture. And, despite its IVF-focused design, it is excelling at providing a highly controlled environment — an essential tool for handling delicate stem cells.

It's being used in the Personalised Medicine Centre at Murdoch University to support drug development to treat childhood diseases caused by genetic defects.

It works by filtering and circulating air to maintain a sterile space, protecting stem cells from



Aidan Murphy and Isabella Trew use the safety workstation to work on stem cells.

contamination. But its built-in microscope is what makes this one special, allowing scientists to remove unwanted cell types on the spot while they transform stem cells into specialised cell types such as liver, or neural cells.

These types of cells can be particularly sensitive to temperature changes but this cabinet enables scientists to maintain a more stable environment for the cells when they are outside of their growth incubator.

Scientists at the Personalised Medicine Centre have already generated multiple neuronal cell lines more quickly than usual and the patients themselves are one step closer to potentially life-changing treatments for a range of childhood diseases.

THE CYTEK AURORA SPECTRAL CYTOMETER

Children hospitalised with burns — even ones classed as non-severe — are at an increased risk of early death,

infectious diseases, heart conditions, diabetes, cancer, and mental health conditions later in life.

"Burn injury continues to be a significant issue for children in WA, with children aged 0-5 years the most at-risk group, pointing to an urgent need to address these health issues to improve outcomes for these patients," said Dr Lucy Barrett, who works at the University of WA's Burn Injury Research Unit. "Our research has shown that burn injury causes long-term damage to the immune system, and we hypothesise this is the underlying cause of poor health in our paediatric burn cohort."

Scientists still don't fully understand the underlying factors that disrupt immunity in response to burn trauma, which means children cannot be treated to reduce these known long-term health impacts.

The spectral flow cytometer (SFC) funded by Telethon at UWA is set to change that.

Scientists can now use fewer precious patient samples to boost their research capacity and also provide better and fas-

Orlando Jackson on the power tower with physiotherapist Eloise Connell.



ter health outcomes for young burns survivors.

Typically, only small volumes of blood can be collected from children up to age five, and single-cell analysis is then carried out on those samples which need to be repeatedly looked at.

Scientists often run out of samples without getting the results they need.

UWA senior researcher Catherine Rinaldi said the SFC increases the number of parameters that can be analysed on a single sample so it doesn't need to be looked at over and over again. And it can reveal deeper insights into how the child's immune system is functioning, leading to better treatment options and preventive measures.

It also lets researchers do their job faster, more easily and at lower cost, resulting in swifter outcomes for WA children and their families.

The other major benefit is its location in an open-access facility within UWA's Centre for Microscopy, Characterisation and Analysis, which allows

more people in the research community to use the equipment and get answers to important questions that will advance their research.

UWA Associate Professor Jason Waithman said: "In the long-term, access to this equipment allows us to improve patient outcomes for childhood leukaemia, adolescent lymphoma and sarcoma patients here in Western Australia and across the globe."

While disease relapse in these youngsters can be treated with genetically engineered white blood cells, this does not always work so researchers are using this equipment to improve success rates.

Dr Rinaldi said simply by having such cutting-edge equipment located here means WA has a better chance of retaining bright minds. She said that's important given the work they do is dedicated to improving the lives of some of WA's most vulnerable kids.

POWER TOWER

When Orlando Jackson was

stronger "super leg" allows him to take part in swimming, soccer, footy and martial arts.

Orlando says he loves that the power tower has helped him to learn to run and hop on his 'super leg'.

AKOYA PHENOCYCLER-FUSION SYSTEM

This impressive piece of research equipment reveals hidden patterns in tissues and organs, giving scientists and doctors valuable insights into deadly diseases affecting children, including cancer as well as other devastating autoimmune and neurological conditions.

"Childhood cancers appear to be becoming more common in Australian children and some are very difficult to treat and severely affect these children's quality of life and their survival rates," explains Edith Cowan University professor Elin Gray.

"WA scientists need as much information as possible to work out how to best help these very sick kids and access to the latest research equipment plays a key role with making these kinds of breakthroughs."

A first-of-its-kind in WA at ECU's Centre for Precision Health at the Joondalup campus — though other WA research bodies use the equipment in collaboration — one of the phenocycler-fusion system's strengths is the way it provides detailed analysis of tissues and organs, mapping the location of more than 50 proteins.

Other major research bodies such as The Kids Research Institute, Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research and the University of WA also use the equipment in a bid to help children in the future.

Researchers use it to better understand the immune response in cancer types including neuroblastoma — a brain cancer — and leukaemia, a blood cancer. Scientists are in the pre-clinical study phase but are working towards improving treatments for children diagnosed with these kinds of potentially deadly diseases and conditions.

"Many childhood cancers remain a clinical and scientific challenge," noted Professor Gray. "The Akoya phenocycler fusion system has revolutionised our capacity to analyse cancer tumours for clues to develop new treatments."

"We are very thankful for the support from Telethon and other partners."

BD ARCTIC SUN TEMPERATURE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

This non-invasive machine at Fiona Stanley Hospital's neonatal intensive care unit helps babies affected by hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy — a serious injury to the brain caused by deprivation of oxygen.

HIE primarily affects babies under 28 days old and is a common cause of death and disability in youngsters worldwide.

Lack of oxygen to the brain can have devastating consequences, harming a child's development and quality of life — HIE is a major cause of cerebral palsy.

Each year two out of 1000 live births in developed countries are affected by HIE in neonates born over 35 weeks.

Doctors often use therapeutic hypothermia to treat infants with HIE, cooling the baby's body to a core temperature of 33.5C for 72 hours, starting within the first six hours after birth. This reduces the risk of death or disability between 18 and 22 months of age.

The recommended way to do this is through use of "cooling machines" such as the BD Arctic Sun temperature management system, which offers key benefits to patients and their families.

Infants are placed on the machine's gel pad and gradually cooled. Neonatal staff then control the temperature which reduces the risk of a life-changing brain injury while providing a life-saving treatment that is also family-friendly.

This is important because the process of cooling a baby due to a hypoxic incident can be an incredibly stressful experience for families.

The BD Arctic Sun's gel mattress, however, allows parents to hold their baby in some circumstances and even change their nappy while bub is still being cooled. It brings great comfort to the families enduring this stressful process.

"Thanks to Telethon's support, the neonatology team at FSH were able to directly support these sick and vulnerable WA infants by managing their body temperatures to a desired temperature to help treat HIE, a life-threatening condition," said Mangesh Deshmukh, a leading neonatal and perinatal medicine physician.

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THE 2025 TELETHON GRANT RECIPIENTS

12 Buckets

Young people in disadvantaged schools often need more guidance and support to help build resilience and independence. 12 Buckets offers community-based mentoring programs designed to foster personal growth, strengthen peer-to-peer networks and improve students' overall wellbeing.



Thanks to the incredible generosity of the West Australian community, Telethon supports a record 161 extraordinary beneficiaries through 305 targeted grants powering medical research, specialised services, and transformative programs to help build brighter, healthier futures for the children of WA.

A Stitch in Time

The Rise Up program brings mental health education to students in schools across Western Australia. Delivered by psychologists, experienced facilitators, elite athletes, and trained youth educators, these workshops promote self-care, equip students with skills to navigate life's challenges, and help reduce the risk of developing mental health issues.



connect, collaborate and inspire each other as they work together on creative and meaningful community-driven projects.

Allergy Support Hub

The Family Support Program aids caregivers of young children with severe allergies, offering education and support to enhance allergy management, family functioning, and mental health. Psychological intervention, offered to children with allergy anxiety through the Allergy Brave program, improves children's quality of life and empowers them to thrive.



ABC Foundation

The Ranger4Life Program empowers Indigenous students by reigniting their passion for learning through a unique blend of life skills, leadership development, and Indigenous ecological knowledge integrated with modern education. Participants benefit from cultural guidance by Elders, alongside comprehensive training and hands-on experience, fostering confidence and preparing them for future success.



Anglicare WA

Anglicare WA's Young Hearts program provides free counselling 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 Pilbara Families program (Karratha) will support the wellbeing of children aged 8-13 using a whole family model of care.



Ability Solutions

The High Care Kids and All Abilities Art programs enhance the lives of children with disabilities in WA through customised equipment and activities. Both initiatives foster skill development, inclusive artistic expression, and meaningful peer connections, providing opportunities for creativity, fun, and growth while ensuring every child can fully participate.



The Australian Children's Music Foundation

The Australian Children's Music Foundation program provides music education and instruments to children and at-risk youth in metropolitan, regional and remote Western Australia. 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.



Ability WA

Ability WA's In-Home Baby Intervention Service provides allied health therapy to babies at risk of developmental delay or disability. The assistive technology hire library, AssistKids, is a first in WA, offering children timely access to specialised equipment. The Early Mealtime Service supports children with developing practical strategies to address mealtime challenges.



Australian Kookaburra Kids Foundation

Mental illness among parents can be debilitating for their children, with long-lasting impacts. The Kookaburra Kids camp and activity days equip children with skills, peer support and emotional literacy, supporting healthy childhood and improving mental health outcomes.



Achievers Club WA

The Achievers Club supports primary and secondary school students from disadvantaged backgrounds through weekly mentoring sessions. Volunteer mentors provide tailored assistance, helping students progress at their own pace. The program aims to boost self-confidence, trust and a sense of achievement, fostering academic growth and personal development.



Autism Association of Western Australia

Autism Connect supports children with autism to access early diagnosis, funding and interventions. The program consists of specialist playgroups, workshops, and groups that strengthen family capacity, tailored to the unique needs of fathers and siblings of children with autism.



ADHD WA

The SPARK program is a specialised initiative designed to support children with ADHD and their families. It offers resources, workshops, and educational tools to enhance understanding and management of ADHD, focusing on building strengths, improving skills, and promoting wellbeing to enable children to thrive.



Back on Track Foundation

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 get the children back on track for their schooling objectives after undergoing challenging treatments.



Barking Gecko Arts

A ticket subsidy program will enable children with additional needs and their families to attend a wide range of arts and cultural performances and activities. The Access Touring Program brings live theatre



to schools and communities in low socio-economic areas, ensuring equitable access to arts and cultural experiences.

Binar Futures

The Binar Health Embassy seeks to enhance the wellbeing of Aboriginal children and youth in regional and remote areas through a groundbreaking health initiative at Binar basketball tournaments. With engaging incentives, players can undergo essential health checks by doctors and receive seamless follow-up care from local medical services.



Blackwood Youth Action

The Warren Youth Mental Health Support Program provides tailored workshops to support the mental health and social wellbeing of at-risk and disadvantaged youth in the Manjimup community. The program focuses on raising awareness of mental health challenges and equipping participants with effective coping strategies.



Blind Sports Australia

Let's Get Visible is a specialised physical literacy program designed for school-aged children with vision impairments. By focusing on balance, strength, and mobility, it helps boost confidence and movement skills. The holiday program features adapted activities such as cooking, crafts and sports, fostering social interaction, creativity, and essential life skills.



Bridge Builders

The Backpack Buddies addresses a critical gap in children's nutritional needs by providing healthy food packs to children in the Peel region outside of school hours. Distributed through schools, the program supports children's physical health and cognitive development, as well as alleviating stress and anxiety.



Bully Zero Australia Foundation

Through the delivery of interactive bully intervention and prevention programs in schools across Perth and Peel, Bully Zero's Stronger Together program aims to reduce bullying incidents, educate children on cyber safety and improve resilience and mental health.



Cahoots

The Cahoots Hearts and Minds (CHAMPS) program is a holistic wellbeing program for neurodivergent children, children with disabilities, and/or children facing disadvantage. CHAMPS uses mindfulness, positive mental health practices, art and sensory experiences to improve children's mental health, social connections, self-regulation and wellbeing in an inclusive safe environment.



Camp Autism WA

Camp Autism WA provides unique camps for children with autism and their families, fostering connection, peer support, and shared adventures. These camps also promote awareness and inclusion, empowering autism families to thrive and shine.



Camp Quality

Camp Quality's Child Life Therapy offers procedural support to children with cancer, helping them and their family cope better with often scary and painful invasive medical treatments. The KICC Program provides tangible support to children impacted by their carer's cancer diagnosis, improving their social and emotional wellbeing.



Cancer Council of Western Australia

The Children's Cancer Counselling Program is a pilot program providing free counselling sessions to support 2-17-year-olds who have experienced or had loved ones affected by cancer.



Carers Association of Western Australia

The Young Carer Program supports young people in WA who care for family members with disabilities, mental illness, chronic conditions, or who are aged. The camps offer young carers aged 8-13 the opportunity to develop and build skills, companionship, resilience, and identity.



Child and Adolescent Health Service

Since 1968, Telethon has supported Princess Margaret Hospital for Children and Perth Children's Hospital to purchase the latest medical equipment, specialist facilities, program support and research fellowships. In 2025, Telethon will support revolutionary Zero G gait therapy, more than 40 pieces of equipment, and groundbreaking research, bettering the lives of children across the State.



Childhood Dementia Initiative

The Childhood Dementia Initiative aims to improve awareness of childhood dementia and improve children's access to treatment and services. The program will bring together families across WA to share their lived experience and voice as a collective, informing and building access to appropriate care for children facing childhood dementia.



Cockburn Integrated Health

Cockburn Integrated Health's Aboriginal Ear Health Program is a collaboration between a range of service providers to improve access to ear health and support services, including audiology, surgical and related speech pathology, for Aboriginal children in Western Australia.



Communicare

Welcome Journeys offers psychosocial, education and peer supports to young refugees and migrants who are at risk of isolation and mental health issues. My PlaySchool is an early intervention program for migrant and refugee children with developmental vulnerabilities, which aims to improve confidence and prepare children for transitioning to school.



Constable Care Child Safety Foundation

Constable Care will deliver an interactive film program aimed at Year 4-6 students, encouraging open dialogue to focus on help-seeking behaviours around mental health. The interactive incursion aims to address alarming statistics around mental health issues affecting a growing percentage of primary school students.



Curtin University
Researchers at Curtin University will co-design an online intervention to prevent and treat mental health issues resulting from grief in children; test the safety of co-administered IV medications in neonatal care settings, aiming to reduce the risk of poor health outcomes for critical ill babies; develop an arts-based intervention to address mental health in children with autism, and will provide solutions to addresses language and cultural barriers in clinical settings.

Cystic Fibrosis Western Australia
CFWA's Thriving Families program supports regional children with cystic fibrosis and their families through equitable access to care, therapy, support services, and respite for caregivers. LungSmart elevates respiratory health awareness in regional Aboriginal communities by educating families and communities to recognise and seek care for children experiencing wet cough.

Dandelions WA
Dandelions WA supports children in need by ensuring they start the school year with equality, hope, and confidence. The provision of new backpacks filled with stationery, digital technology and essential items, including a lunchbox and water bottle, helps children attend school ready and excited to learn.

Department of Health
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 State-wide health services.

Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service Aboriginal Corporation
Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service's paediatric service is a unique model that allows Aboriginal children with complex health and developmental needs access to life-changing diagnostic and therapeutic support. Case coordination and support from a multidisciplinary team offers a one stop shop focused on addressing the needs of a child in a culturally safe environment.

Down Syndrome WA
Down Syndrome WA's Family Support program offers wrap around support to children with Down syndrome and their families, through pre/postnatal family visits, developmental playgroups, PCH and regional outreach, and information and advocacy. Connection to peers creates a strong foundation of knowledge, skills, social networks and lifelong friendships.

Ear Science Institute Australia
Researchers aim to develop a novel bone-conducting hearing aid for Aboriginal children

with conductive hearing loss, improving their development and educational outcomes. The CELLCYTE X live cell and spheroid imaging system will allow investigation of hearing preservation treatments for chronic suppurative otitis media and sensorineural hearing loss in children.

Earbus Foundation of WA
Earbus Foundation's experienced Hearing Screening and Audiology teams will lead a partnership with paediatric specialists including speech pathologists, occupational therapists, developmental psychologists and physiotherapists to bring a suite of coordinated and seamless wrap-around services to at-risk regional and remote communities.

Eat Up Australia
Eat Up's mission is to feed hungry kids so they can grow, learn and succeed. In 2025, Eat Up will provide lunches to 46 schools in six regional areas, addressing systemic poverty and food insecurity issues to improve health and educational outcomes for children.

EdConnect Australia
The EdConnect Great at Eight program will focus on providing 150 trained and skilled volunteers into primary schools to work with 3000 disadvantaged and vulnerable children who are at risk of falling behind in literacy skill development before they reach a pivotal point in their learning.

Edmund Rice Centre
Edmund Rice Centre's Moorditj Koolangka (Strong Children) and Koolamba Koolangka (Strong Big Kids) programs support vulnerable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to improve mental and social wellbeing through engagement with arts and increased connection to culture.

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

Epilepsy WA
This Children's Epilepsy Support and Risk Reduction program offers children with epilepsy access to the latest leading head protection wear, seizure alert devices and children's epilepsy-related story books, to reduce stigma and reduce their risk of epilepsy-related injuries, and deaths, while empowering independence.

Eq Cetera
Horses Helping Humans offers equine-assisted therapy to sick, vulnerable and disadvantaged children, helping develop confidence, communication, and emotional regulation, in a supportive, non-invasive and nurturing environment. Two new therapy horses will support Eq Cetera's equine-assisted therapy programs with children.

Expression Australia
Expression Australia's CODA (Children of Deaf Adults) program aims to raise awareness and understanding of the experiences of CODA individuals in Western Australia. The program will support and develop resources to improve the health and wellbeing of CODA children across the State.

Fair Game Australia
The Fit and Healthy Outback Kids program delivers engaging fitness sessions and fun interactive health promotion activities in remote communities, aiming to reduce risk of lifestyle related disease, build social cohesion and improve mental wellbeing. 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.

Far North Community Services
The Kimberley Children and Family Outreach Program will provide support for vulnerable and disadvantaged children and their families to maintain a safe and stable living environment, where the children thrive. The program will build resilience and reconnect family with informal/kin networks, reducing carer burnout and risk of entering out of home care, while improving access to other needed services.

The Fathering Project
The Supporting Fathers of Children with Neurodivergence program aims to enhance parenting skills, reduce stress and provide peer support. The program is building capacity and delivering resources to positively impact the child's emotional, cognitive, and physical development.

Fiona Stanley Hospital, South Metropolitan Health Service
Research aiming to reverse peanut allergy in infants through oral immunotherapy will generate the evidence to translate this potentially life-changing treatment into a community-based model of care. The Draeger VN800 ventilator, specifically designed for premature and sick babies, harnesses the latest technology to provide the most gentle yet effective ventilation support.

Fiona Wood Foundation
Fiona Wood Foundation are extending their paediatric burns biobank to explore the link between physiological markers after childhood burn and the psychosocial effects of burn injury. This study will identify the relationships between clinical, demographic and physiological characteristics, scar impact, strengths and difficulties, post-traumatic stress and impact on parents.

Food Ladder
The Food Ladder School System is a multifaceted and innovative solution addressing food insecurity by

providing vulnerable and disadvantaged communities with sustainable, locally grown produce. It utilises advanced hydroponic systems to cultivate nutritious, fresh produce year-round, even in the harshest of climates, while promoting self-sufficiency in underserved areas.

Foodbank Western Australia
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.

Football Futures Foundation
By providing a suite of inclusive soccer opportunities, Football for All promotes physical fitness and mental resilience in children with disabilities. A strengthened focus on peer support will see young mentors with disabilities support program participants.

Fostering Hope
Fostering Hope supports foster carers throughout WA by providing essential clothing and toys for children and young people placed in care. Fostering Joy events, including a picnic, party and disco, help foster laughter, play and a sense of community.

Furthering Autistic Children's Education and Schooling
Children with autism often face poor academic and social outcomes. This project provides services for children with autism using evidence-backed methods that support improved educational, social and mental health outcomes for children with autism and other neurodivergent conditions, their families, peers and teachers.

Hannah's House
The Playtime Program creates inclusive play experiences that help children with high level needs work towards important developmental milestones in a safe and supportive environment. In-home care programs for babies and children with complex conditions deliver safe support services by trained registered nurses and support workers who specialise in high-intensity paediatric care.

Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research
Research undertaken at Harry Perkins will test a novel application of the 'exon-skipping' strategy that was pioneered for treatment of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. This project will develop exon-skipping drugs for treatment of two muscle diseases and test whether these treatments are effective in patient cells supporting better outcomes for children with muscle disease.

The Healthy Strides Foundation
Run Club for Kids empowers children with neurodisabilities by offering an after-school Frame Running and inclusive sport program. This initiative enhances physical health, promotes wellbeing, and fosters social connections, providing meaningful opportunities for children to engage, socialise, and develop friendships.

HeartKids
HeartKids provides direct support services and programs designed to improve the quality, delivery, and access to critical services for chronically ill children impacted by childhood-onset heart disease. Lived Experience Support Coordinators across metro and regional WA offer emotional support, advice on navigating the health system and co-ordinate peer-support groups.

Helping Little Hands
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.

Helping Minds
The Artful Journeys program blends mental health education with creative expression, offering children and teenagers a safe, vibrant space to directly support their health: mind, body and spirit. Dance Connection supports vulnerable and disadvantaged young people experiencing mental health challenges through dance movement therapy and educational workshops.

Holyoake
The Very Young Persons Program (VYPP) supports young people aged 8-13 with alcohol or drug use (AOD) issues. VYPP provides individualised, family-inclusive interventions focusing on motivation to change, emotional regulation, and relationship building, to reduce AOD use and enhance resilience for long-term positive outcomes.

HorsePower Hills
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.

The Humour Foundation
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.

Inclusion Solutions
The Building Inclusive Schools project focuses on the inclusion of children with disabilities in schools, upskilling and building the capacity of students, staff, teachers and families through interactive disability inclusion workshops.

JK Foundation
A Youth Worker will assist disadvantaged and disengaged students at Mullewa District High School to prepare for and get to school, engage in healthy eating and sport and be supported going to classes.

Joondalup Health Campus
ORIGINS is the largest study of its kind in Australia, following 10,000 children, from their time in the womb, over a decade to improve child and adult health. Origins researchers are not only investigating the prevention of disease but also looking to discover how every child and family can reach their full potential.

Julyardi Aboriginal Corporation
The Kumaparniku program provides support to vulnerable families, improving health and wellbeing outcomes with a focus on children under 5 years. The holistic approach supports families to set realistic and achievable goals for themselves to improve outcomes and create a positive and sustainable future for their young families.

Karratha Community House
Workshops specifically tailored to the unique challenges faced by educators and families in rural and remote Karratha will offer access to essential resources and knowledge, enabling children and families to thrive. School holiday play programs provide children access to quality educational experiences, while offering parents much-needed respite.

The Katina Woodruff Children's Foundation
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.

Kidney Health Australia
Kidney Kids Es-Caper Camps provides life-changing weekends for children and young people living with kidney disease, offering them the chance to build strong peer connections through fun activities.

Camps foster lasting support networks, with ongoing online connections to reinforce the relationships formed.

Kids are Kids Therapy & Education Centre
The Therapy in Schools program, based in the Armadale region, provides children at developmental risk with allied health assessment and intervention within an evidence-based trauma informed framework. This early intervention is vital in improving literacy and developmental outcomes within the region.

Kids Cancer Support Group
The Peer Support Program supports families impacted by childhood cancer through connection, support and advocacy to families in treatment, post treatment and throughout bereavement. The provision of toys, crafts, activities, and events helps brighten a child's stay in hospital. Playgroups are tailored and offer therapeutic play opportunities guided by a qualified Play Therapist.

The Kids Research Institute Australia
The Kids Research Institute Australia is one of the largest and most successful child health research institutes in Australia. Their researchers are searching for answers to the biggest issues facing children and families everywhere. At The Kids, the vision is simple: happy, healthy kids.

Kiind
The Kiind in hospital and out of hospital support programs support children with disability and their families to navigate the complexities of an unexpected diagnosis at Perth Children's Hospital and across regional and remote WA. After discharge, Kiind offers ongoing practical, social and emotional support to children and their families.

Kwinana Early Years Services
Kwinana Early Years Services (KEYS) aims to test and identify the most impactful components of transition-to-kindergarten programs for disadvantaged children in Kwinana. By comparing an intensive one-term program against a co-designed two-term program, KEYS will determine which aspects deliver impactful outcomes with minimal resources, enabling scalable and sustainable solutions for vulnerable children.

The LBW Trust
The Bridging the Divide initiative delivers crucial educational, health and wellbeing programs to children in rural and remote WA. By empowering local libraries to address community-identified needs, The LBW Trust bridges the divide, ensuring every child has access to the resources they profoundly lack.

Legacy WA
Legacy WA supports children of veterans who have sacrificed their lives or health while serving in the Australian Defence Force. The Education Assistance Program ensures children do not experience educational disadvantage because of their parent's ill-health, while Legacy Connect offers opportunities for connection and peer support through sport, art and nature.

Life Education WA
Life Education WA partners with primary schools in the Goldfields and surrounding country towns to deliver health and safety education. The project, aimed at low socioeconomic schools, tackles the biggest health issues upper primary students are facing, including cyber safety, mental health, and vaping.

Lifeline WA
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 Camp for Kids
Lionheart's Family Camps support grieving children following the death of a parent or significant person. The camp provides a safe space for vulnerable 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
Lions Eye Institute combines world-class treatment with groundbreaking 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.

Little Big Steps
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.

Luma for her Health and Wellbeing
The Mindful Nest program is a counselling and therapeutic program for children and young people who have been impacted by family and domestic violence. Nurturing Families assists families impacted by maternal alcohol or drug use during pregnancy and early years parenting to make long-lasting behavioural changes and build safe, healthy relationships.



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Thanks to Telethon's incredible support, we're helping children in WA impacted by trauma and other adverse childhood experiences to heal, grow, and thrive.

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telathon 2025

2025 TELETHON WEEKEND

OCTOBER 18 & 19

The Lung Warrior Incorporated
The Respirecare Packs program, based within the respiratory ward at Perth Children's Hospital, aims to offer entertainment and a source of distraction for young patients battling lung-related illnesses in Western Australia.

The Magic Coat Foundation
The Magic Coat Hospital Adventure App is designed to prepare children for surgery, reducing anxiety and improving children's experiences at Perth Children's Hospital.

Make-A-Wish Australia
Make-A-Wish grant 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.

Meningitis Centre Australia
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.

Miracle Babies Foundation
Miracle Babies 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.

Murdoch University
In 2025, Murdoch University will undertake research exploring new brain models for rare disease and drug testing for children with cochlear implants. Programs will support physical activity in autistic children and the social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal youth in the Kimberley. A new imaging system will support drug development for children with rare genetic conditions.

Nature Play WA
Nature Play in the Park promotes connectedness to nature, healthy eating, physical activity, emotional wellbeing, and child development in preschool children. In 2025, it will also be delivered to neurodiverse children.

Neurological Council of WA
The NeuroKids program supports the health and wellbeing of children and adolescents living

with neurological symptoms or conditions, and their families, through free, home and community based neurological nursing, health care and disability management and navigation.

Neuromuscular WA
The Adolescent Resilience and Capacity Building Program for school-aged children living with a neuromuscular condition provides a range of capacity building, community engagement and peer mentoring opportunities to increase the participants' self-confidence and independence while reducing their social isolation and improving mental and physical health.

Ngala Family Services
The Parenting on the Inside program supports highly vulnerable children and mothers through weekly parenting and playtime sessions, providing a brighter future for all.

North Metropolitan Health Service
North Metropolitan Health Services are committed to providing excellent health care for patients and the community. The Genome Sequencing Service will expedite genetic testing for paediatric patients in WA and allow faster diagnosis and interventions for the most vulnerable WA children.

Ocean Heroes
Ocean Heroes host free surfing events for neurodiverse children in regional WA. Combining the autism and surfing communities enables Ocean Heroes' goal of making the ocean safe and inclusive for everyone.

Operation Sunshine
Sunshine packs provide comfort and support to children in crisis, including children who are entering out-of-home care and crisis accommodation. These packs provide highly vulnerable children with new, essential and comfort items, including a backpack, clothing in their size, personal hygiene items, soft toys and colouring books.

Outcare
The Arclight Initiative aims to address and reverse anti-social and criminal behaviours among young people in Kwinana. Its unique approach of understanding attachment, relationship, and competency encourages young people who have been severely impacted by trauma to make a significant and profound positive adjustment to their lives now and well into adulthood.

OzHarvest
OzHarvest's Nourishing Our Schools program supports vulnerable children and their families throughout the school year by providing Food for Learning to students, and Food for Thriving healthy hamper to help tackle food insecurity experienced by children and their families in the WA community.

Puntukurnu Aboriginal Medical Service
For pregnant Aboriginal women living in WA's East Pilbara, significant issues systematically impede their pregnancy journey and a safe and healthy start to life for their babies. Puntukurnu Aboriginal Medical Service provide culturally responsive and appropriate fully comprehensive primary health care services, for children and their families, in communities of Jigalong, Parmngurr, Punmu, Kunawarritji and Newman.

Para and Ability Dance WA
Para and Ability Dance will provide inclusive dance classes to schools, fostering joy, building social connections and helping develop communication skills. By offering classes in schools, this program removes access barriers, ensuring children who otherwise are unable to engage in recreation activities can participate.

Parkerville Children and Youth Care
The Education Employment and Training Program provides young people, who are at risk of failing school, with tools to create a successful future. The Multi-agency Investigation Support Team model is WA's first integrated response to child sexual abuse, co-locating all supports needed to reduce the impact of trauma.

Pelvic Pain Foundation of Australia
PPEP Talk and Yarns addresses critical gaps in education for teens. Focusing on First Nations and economically disadvantaged youth, the program aims to reduce stigma, improve health literacy, and enhance access to care for menstrual health and endometriosis.

Perron Institute for Neurological and Translational Science
Chromosome 15 (Chr15) imprinting disorders including Angelman Syndrome, Prader-Willi Syndrome and Chr15 q duplication syndrome, are incurable neurological diseases. Research aims to develop novel treatments for these disorders using antisense oligonucleotides to normalise gene expression.

Perth Children's Hospital Foundation
Move to improve works with children with ongoing health conditions to provide accessible, evidence-based opportunities to increase physical activity and improve health and wellbeing. The Rare Care Centre delivers comprehensive care to children living with rare and undiagnosed diseases.

Perth Symphony Orchestra
The Pilbara Soundscapes initiative empowers children through music. Engaging an Indigenous elder, the project cultivates cultural identity and promotes healing through musical workshops, performances, and mentorship.

Pregnancy to Parenthood Clinic
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, reduces the risk of mental health issues in infancy, and works to break down intergenerational trauma.

Radio Lollipop
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.

Raise Foundation
The Raise Youth Mentoring Program is a 20-week early-intervention mentoring program for young people who have been identified as at risk of disengagement and poor wellbeing. Mentors support young people to achieve optimal outcomes in relation to mental health, social and emotional wellbeing and school engagement.

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

Reclink Australia
Reclink provides opportunities for children with disabilities and poor mental health from disadvantaged communities to access a range of inclusive sport, recreation and art activities with the aim of improving physical, mental and social wellbeing.

Redkite
Childhood cancer brings significant financial challenges for families. Parents and carers may need to leave or reduce work to care for their child, while also incurring additional expenses. Assistance through Redkite relieves financial pressure and enables families to provide the best possible care and support to their children.

Respiratory Care WA
The Children's Respiratory Hub offers free, personalised care and support for children and families managing respiratory conditions. As the only service providing access to paediatric lung function testing, specialist consultations, and education, the hub helps children stay active, avoid hospital visits, and live their healthiest, happiest lives.

Riding for the Disabled Brigadoon
Equine therapy supports children with disabilities with mobility, co-ordination, 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.

Riding for the Disabled BrookValley Farm
RDA BrookValley Farm provides children with disabilities access to therapeutic riding programs that support their overall health and wellbeing. Equine therapy enhances physical strength, posture, and flexibility while also fostering emotional growth by boosting self-esteem and confidence.

Riding for the Disabled Capricorn
RDA Capricorn empowers riders with disabilities or additional support needs to enjoy the challenges and rewards of equestrian activities. Through these experiences, riders build confidence, achieve personal goals, develop essential life skills, and enhance their overall quality of life.

Riding for the Disabled Carine
RDA Carine offers therapeutic equine-assisted programs for children in WA with diverse abilities and additional needs. Through engaging, interactive activities, the program promotes physical, cognitive, and emotional wellbeing while fostering a supportive environment that encourages growth, confidence, and independence.

Rocky Bay
The Early Start Intervention Program (ESIP) provides vital early intervention

therapies for children with or at risk of rare diseases, offering hope to families struggling to access support services. The Home Away from Home program at Lady Lawley Cottage will provide 10 specialist respite beds, addressing the critical need for children's respite in WA.

Royal Flying Doctor Service Western Operations
The Heli Help for Babies program enables the RFDS helicopter service to provide faster, smoother and often time-critical journeys for seriously ill newborn babies from regional WA. Operating within a 250km radius of Perth, the helicopters will transfer WA's youngest, most vulnerable, patients directly to PCH.

The Salvation Army
Dedicated child counsellors at Salvation Army women's refuges in Perth and Karratha support the mental health and wellbeing of children impacted by family and domestic violence. These roles provide specialised assessments, one-to-one psychological care and identifies pathways to relevant support and long-term recovery.

Schools Plus
Schools Plus partners with schools in communities facing disadvantage, to tackle their number one priority of poor student wellbeing. Through place-based, strategic initiatives, schools will be supported to improve the mental health and wellbeing of vulnerable and disadvantaged children, to ensure they thrive and fulfil their potential.

Scitech Discovery Centre
To create a more inclusive and barrier-free space, three LEXI Viewer live captioning devices will be installed in the Planetarium, Science Theatre, and Laboratory, ensuring deaf or hard of hearing children have equal access to an enjoyable educational experience.

SensesWA
The New Buds program provides expert early childhood intervention services for children with identified vision and hearing issues and/or risk profiles. New Buds therapists support the child's developmental milestones, communication development, integration into school settings and engagement with appropriate supports.

Sensorium Theatre
Sensorium Theatre's Imagine program brings high-quality, multi-sensory performing arts to children with disabilities in Perth schools, libraries, and early years centres, enhancing wellbeing and inclusion for those facing disadvantage.

Shooting Stars
This Mother Country and Me program will empower school-aged Aboriginal girls from Halls Creek, Derby, Laverton and Leonora through cultural and language workshops with local Elders and women family members.

The Smith Family
Learning Clubs offer secure and supportive out-of-school-hours learning environments for vulnerable primary students facing disadvantage. 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.

Sony Foundation Australia
Open Parachute is an in-school mental health and wellbeing program tailored for K-12. Using an early-intervention approach, it teaches the coping skills and resilience needed to thrive through adolescence and beyond. Students learn from real peer stories on topics such as social media, bullying, body image, depression, anxiety and addiction.

Special Olympics WA
The Unified Playing for All program engages children aged 6-17 with and without intellectual disabilities in inclusive, non-competitive sports activities. Focused on fun and skill-building, the program promotes physical fitness, teamwork, and life skills through diverse games, fostering lifelong active habits and social connections.

Spectrum Space
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.

Sports Challenge Australia
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 Ambulance Western Australia
First Aid skills are critical for children in remote communities. The First Aid Focus program will support school children in eight of WA's North West remote and vulnerable communities.

St John of God Foundation
Cutting-edge medical equipment will ensure neonatal babies and children at St John of God hospitals receive the best possible care. The Moort Boodjari Mia service will support a mobile midwifery program, providing outreach antenatal and postnatal care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their children within the Wheatbelt.

Starick Services
Thriving Through Connection aims to improve the safety and wellbeing of young people who have experienced family and domestic violence. Based in Perth's south-east, the program offers individual and group-based support, psychosocial education, practical assistance, advocacy and referral, and builds social and peer connections.

Starlight Children's Foundation
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.

Superfins WA
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.

Supertee
Supertee aims to empower children in five hospitals across WA by replacing standard hospital gowns with Supertee care packs. This project helps bring imagination and strength to children facing serious, long-term illnesses, while providing parents and hospital staff an easier way to change their child while accessing or bypassing medical lines.

Swan Districts Foundation
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.

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A special message from Noah

My name is Noah, I am 12 years old. I am in year 6 although I have not been able to attend much since being diagnosed with Ewing Sarcoma. Ewing Sarcoma is a soft tissue and bone cancer. My cancer is in my back and spine so it can not be operated on. I have 5 different types of chemotherapy each month and stay in hospital 9 days for this treatment. I have completed 31 rounds of radiation which left me with a big burn and scar on my back. The chemotherapy makes me sick and not want to eat. I have lost 15kg so the doctors gave me a nas So I can be fed through my nose. I lost all my hair including my eye lashes and eyebrows. My Step-dad let me shave his head so I wasn't the only one without hair. I often feel weak and need help so I use a wheelchair to get around. With the help of my doctors and nurse I am towards the end of my treatment. Telethon to me means helping other sick kids just like me. So from all the sick kids in WA. Thank you for helping us.



Noah Johnson, whose moving story of resilience in the face of a cancer diagnosis moved the people of WA.



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