

telethon 7

IMPACT REPORT

2025



Thank you WA

In 2025, because of your generosity, Telethon will be supporting:

161

Beneficiaries

305

Grants

212

Programs and services

41

Research projects

3,924

Pieces of equipment



Scan to view digital Impact Report

Acknowledgement of Country

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

Chairman's message

Since 1968, Telethon has been a vital part of our community, sustained by the extraordinary generosity and compassion of West Australians. Deeply embedded in the fabric of WA's culture, Telethon is a true celebration of our State's collective spirit, uniting us to support our most sick and vulnerable children. Telethon brings people together from all walks of life, fostering a shared sense of purpose and a powerful bond of togetherness.

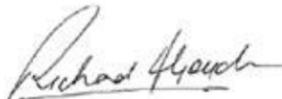
The theme for 2024, "Incredible Together," beautifully captures the essence of those everyday heroes among us. A perfect example are 2024 Little Telethon Stars – Florence, Nate, Nazeem, and Charlee. Their resilience and joy, coupled with their willingness to allow us to walk alongside them on their journeys, helped inspire an astonishing fundraising total of \$83.3 million. This record-breaking achievement ensures that Telethon funds will continue to provide essential support to those children and families in need across Western Australia.

Across Telethon Weekend, we shared moments of laughter, heartfelt tears, and stories that illustrated the profound, life-changing impact of Telethon. We heard powerful stories of hope and triumph, of children overcoming life-threatening diagnoses, communities coming together through all-abilities sports, accessible and inclusive programs and groundbreaking medical research pushing boundaries to deliver the best care for our most vulnerable.

Whether it's the dedication of community fundraisers, the generosity of corporate donors, the unwavering support of doctors and nurses, or the strength of families caring for each other, the West Australian community continues to create change in remarkable ways. These are the true heroes of Telethon – those who have built and continue to uphold this movement of hope and healing.

This year, thanks to the ongoing kindness and support of West Australians, the Telethon Trust is proud to help fund 161 beneficiaries through more than 300 grants, supporting vital services, community programs, pioneering medical research and providing specialised equipment, all with one singular goal – to build brighter, healthier futures for the children of WA.

Telethon's far-reaching impact is made possible by the dedication and tireless efforts of our beneficiaries that, year after year, deliver programs that change lives. On behalf of my fellow Telethon Trustees, it is a privilege to share with you an overview of the incredible work of our beneficiaries who work tirelessly on the front lines to support WA's families.


Richard Goyder AO



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When you give to the Channel 7 Telethon Trust, **100% of your donation goes directly to funding grants** for beneficiaries that support sick, vulnerable and disadvantaged children

Feel proud WA, knowing that all your donations, big or small, reach children in need



Meet Our **Little Telethon Stars**

NAZEEM

Nazeem lives with cerebral palsy and dystonia, meaning his life is filled with hospital visits and therapy appointments. Despite these challenges, Nazeem faces each day with incredible strength, courage and a joyful enthusiasm for life. Nazeem plays guitar and loves to bake, with pancakes and mudcakes his speciality.

Through regular physical therapy at Telethon beneficiary Healthy Strides Foundation, Nazeem has made huge gains in his functional mobility and motor skills helping to improve his overall quality of life.



FLORENCE

Florence was born with a complex congenital heart condition and underwent two open heart-surgeries before her first birthday. Despite her medical challenges, Florence's spirit soars, demonstrating enormous resilience for someone so young. A passionate dancer and piano player, Florence regularly performs for her family.

Florence receives comprehensive medical, therapeutic and psychological support through Telethon beneficiary HeartKids. This wrap-around support system not only helps Florence manage her condition but enables her to live life to the fullest.



NATE

Nate spent his first nine months of life in hospital enduring multiple strokes caused by rare, life-threatening conditions affecting his lungs, brain, and veins. Today, Nate is an ambassador for children with disabilities, inspiring others through his humour and fun-loving personality to highlight the achievements of children with additional needs.

Nate is supported by several Telethon beneficiaries including Healthy Strides Foundation, Rebound WA and Superfins, which aid his continued growth and development, helping ensure Nate thrives in all his endeavours.

CHARLEE

Charlee lives with an inoperable brain tumour, but thanks to a groundbreaking clinical trial, its size has significantly reduced allowing her to remain off treatment for the past two years. Despite having faced brain surgery and chemotherapy, Charlee won't let her health challenges get in the way of what she loves – cheerleading, dancing and cooking.

Supported by Telethon beneficiary Kids Cancer Support Group, Charlee's positivity and kindness continue to inspire all who are lucky enough to know her.

Telethon's Impact

In 2024, **Telethon-funded grants** collectively serviced and supported:



Thanks to the generosity of WA, Telethon beneficiaries delivered a range of programs, services and research to improve the lives of **sick, vulnerable and disadvantaged children.**

Here is a snapshot of some of the activities:



Our beneficiaries developed groundbreaking new ways to work with children and families in need:



Scan for further information on clinical trials, models of care and ground-breaking milestones achieved by our beneficiaries.

Milestones

Telethon is proud to celebrate working with:



Source: Grant reporting received from Telethon beneficiaries between 29/02/2024 to 12/02/2025. All Telethon beneficiaries provide an end-of-year grant acquittal documenting the impact and outcomes delivered. Numbers showcased above are the cumulative total of beneficiary submitted figures in each respective category over the grant period.

Giving our **littlest fighters** the strongest start

Having a baby is one of the most exciting times in a person's life. What will their laugh sound like? What sport will they play? What adventures will they go on?

But for many families, these visions are quickly shattered and replaced with the most frightening question of all – will my baby survive?

Approximately 3,000 babies are born prematurely in WA every year. These babies spend their first days, weeks and even months surrounded by tubes, machinery and incubators.

For parents in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) who are living in a constant state of stress and anxiety, even the smallest display of kindness can make a world of difference.

In 2024, **Tiny Sparks** delivered **750 care packages** to NICU families within four metro hospitals, filled with practical items such as cooler bags for breastmilk transport and clothing specifically for premature babies.

The **Miracle Babies Foundation** provides emotional support, education and a listening ear through **weekly hospital visits**.

“They became my lifeline during our NICU stay, providing support, stability and reassurance through one of the hardest experiences of my life.”

– **Miracle Babies mum, Amanda**

Helping Little Hands removes barriers by supporting mums' ability to travel to hospital and empowering them to be actively involved in their baby's care.

Telethon is proud to support programs that offer families an extra level of care which extends beyond the vital medical care provided by clinicians.



3,000
babies are born prematurely in WA every year



A neonatal ventilator at **St John of God Murdoch** provides brain and lung protective ventilation to babies born in a critical condition



17 beneficiaries supported mums and babies during pregnancy and after premature birth, guaranteeing access to the best services and equipment across Australia

Arctic Sun systems at Fiona Stanley Hospital offer vital cooling to neonates who've been deprived of oxygen at birth. This non-invasive intervention reduces the risk of life-changing brain injury and can help save little lives



Panda Warmers at St John of God Subiaco and Murdoch offer temperature regulation, real-time information such as heart rate and oxygen saturation levels and are fitted with resuscitation technology



Boosting frontline support for Perth Children's Hospital



16 Telethon beneficiaries deliver critical and support services to change lives in PCH

Telethon is proud to partner with the Child and Adolescent Health Service (CAHS) team to support sick children and their families by providing programs, equipment and research at Perth Children's Hospital (PCH), ensuring children have access to world-class hospital facilities in WA.

In 2024, PCH had more than **1.2 million interactions** with children and young people, from hospital admissions and surgeries, to outpatient appointments, immunisations and health assessments.

Complemented by **16 Telethon-funded beneficiaries**, children attending PCH receive gold-standard care and support services.

Together, Telethon and CAHS are dedicated to making PCH the best children's hospital in Australia.

Telethon supports

95 clinicians and researchers within PCH to ensure the highest level of care



Life-saving sepsis care model for sick kids

CAHS is committed to providing world-leading care for sick kids. Through **Australia's first post-sepsis care model**, a comprehensive treatment pathway has been developed to help address presentations of sepsis and the next steps once admitted.

Ensuring this life-threatening condition does not continue to affect a child and their family, this program aims to provide information on warning signs, recovery support and how to go home safely.

This program was developed as a result of a Telethon grant and will be piloted across PCH in 2025, reinforcing the Service's commitment to expedite the translation of research into clinical practice to improve the standards of care for children affected by sepsis at the hospital.



World-class support for children with walking and gross motor disorders

The generosity of WA has enabled CAHS to acquire and establish a **Three-Dimensional Gait Analysis Laboratory** for children in WA. This diagnostic tool will assess motor disabilities with 3D cameras and motion sensors to help build physiotherapy and

rehabilitation plans for children with gross motor delays and challenges. This technology is essential in improving gait abnormalities, guiding surgical treatment options and providing high-quality care for vulnerable children.



Telethon beneficiaries within the hospital have translated research into practice faster than ever before, **delivering seven clinical trials, implementing five changes to models of care and introducing six WA-first initiatives**, undertaking **two Australian firsts in research**, and becoming an **international leader in a world-first allergy trial** and treatment.

Research Fellowships: Paving the way for change

In collaboration with Child and Adolescent Health Service (CAHS), Telethon is proud to be supporting Perth Children's Hospital's first Nursing Research Fellowship.

This program will focus on the development and deployment of nurse-led research programs, concentrating on nursing innovation, new discovery and ultimately improved health outcomes for Western Australian children and their families.

The inaugural recipient, Perth Children's Hospital Research Nurse Co-ordinator Arielle Jolly, will develop and test a Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) bereavement service to follow-up with families of children who have died unexpectedly.

“The death of any child is an incomparable tragedy, and to experience this loss, unexpectedly, within the complex and complicated environment of a PICU is highly traumatic for all parents. I am thankful for the value that CAHS and the Telethon Trust have shown for nursing research, and the possibilities this fellowship will create.”

- Nurse Arielle Jolly

The Nursing Research Fellowships will establish a pathway to retain and develop world-class nursing research talent and build a nurse-led, evidence-based research hub that will see the outcomes integrated into clinical service delivery, ensuring better health outcomes for sick, vulnerable and disadvantaged children.



Telethon Fellows changing the care of WA sick kids

Investing in research is critical. From rare disease and evolving cancers, to the most effective treatments and interventions, research forms the foundation upon which answers can be sought.

The 39th year of the CAHS-Telethon Fellowships has resulted in systematic change in research across WA. In 2024, three fellows set out to leave their footprint and improve the care of children at PCH.

Dr David Cullingford hopes to solve the mysteries surrounding a rare congenital condition – Septo-Optic Dysplasia. This abnormal brain development happens in utero and can lead to health complications.

Dr Chandra Rath has set out to test gut-boosting potency of probiotics on WA's tiniest babies, hoping to prove there is a correlation between gut health and serious health conditions.

Dr Kate Lomax tested whether hybrid closed loop (HCL) therapy can improve the management of type 1 diabetes in very young children. This cohort study created a new model of care, equitably offering HCL therapy to all children under seven years of age within 12 weeks of a diabetes diagnosis.

Be proud, WA, that your funded fellows have built incredible scopes of works that have transformed the care for sick kids in WA.

Raising the hopes and spirits of those fighting their biggest battles

When a child spends time in hospital their life can quickly become an endless cycle of white walls, injections, medication and isolation. But Telethon beneficiaries have made it their mission to bring colour, joy and fun to a place most often associated with pain and sickness.

Thanks to the **Clown Doctors**, 15-year-old Ruby now looks forward to her regular visits to PCH.

“When the Clown Doctors arrive, Ruby almost falls off her bed with excitement. She will count down the days until appointments as she can't wait to see them again.”

-Ruby's mum, Nicole



The **Starlight Children's Foundation** Express Room and Captains offer children a space to just be kids, to play and create without any talk of diagnoses, treatment or surgeries.

In 2024, dedicated volunteers at **Radio Lollipop** visited more than **10,000 children** on the wards across seven WA hospitals, playing games, doing crafts or simply being company to help lift the spirits of those who most need our care.



Clown Doctors, Radio Lollipop and Starlight Children's Foundation have brought smiles and support to more than

66,500 children

and shone a light in the darkest of times



Big steps forward for childhood cancer recovery

When a child receives a cancer diagnosis, often their whole life is put on pause. What was once a world of possibility transforms into a narrow focus of treatment, medication and invasive hospital procedures.

Physical activity can be a significant challenge, but **Little Big Steps** is proving its importance in supporting a child's cancer journey. With Telethon's support, Little Big Steps has been able to offer physiotherapy to children undergoing treatment for Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia, showing that it can reduce the severity of side effects and help preserve a child's strength and bone health.

For cancer survivors, recovery isn't complete the moment they hear the words "cancer-free" or get to ring the bell on the oncology ward. It's a long journey back to normality and even then, late effects can still present.

Prior to her cancer diagnosis, Kyra was heavily involved in dancing, cheerleading and acrobatics. But after intense chemotherapy she struggled to stand and walk and needed a wheelchair. During recovery from a bone marrow transplant, Kyra worked with Little Big Steps to gradually build back her strength.

"We are one year post-transplant and Kyra has rejoined her classmates for Year 8, rejoined her dance company for musical theatre and is now snorkelling at the lagoon!"

– Kyra's mum, Karrie



Proving that movement is critical in recovery, Little Big Steps is now working with PCH to extend this service to all children diagnosed with any cancer, setting a new gold standard in cancer intervention, care and recovery.

12 in-hospital Telethon-supported beneficiaries transforming the care of sick children with cancer

In the past 12 months:



Telethon beneficiaries employed

27 specialists

who cared for children affected by cancer through **treatment, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, research and emotional well-being**



323 volunteers

gave **10,937 volunteer hours** to help bring normalcy and joy to children who were on the oncology ward



Telethon beneficiaries

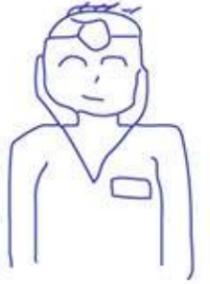
raised the bar, building **two new models of care** and improving how we look after children with cancer through **new recovery interventions, trauma mitigation and precision treatment**





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 nar 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 nurses I am towards the end of my treatment.



Telathon to me means helping other sick kids just like me. So from all the sick kids in WA. Thank you for helping us.



Impact in the regions

Changing lives, one child at a time

Thrive WA's (formerly Edmund Rice Camp for Kids WA) Remote Community Program (RCP) provides vulnerable children in remote areas with respite, mentoring and recreational programs – giving them a safe space to be kids.

With the support of Telethon, **13 regional camps** reached **440 children** who face significant adversity.

One of those children was James. In the beginning, he was reserved, but with encouragement from RCP volunteers, he began to open up. By the end, James was happily taking part in every activity.

For RCP volunteer Marcus, visiting James' home, with no doors and pillows on the floor instead of a bed, was confronting but reinforced why the program exists.

“When it was time to leave, we gathered everything we had – bags of food, supplies, and bedding.

When we handed them to James, I'll never forget his reaction. His face lit up with the biggest smile I had ever seen. Something so simple – possessions of his own and a proper place to sleep – meant everything to him. That moment still gives me goosebumps.”

- Volunteer, Marcus

That moment was a powerful reminder of the impact Telethon beneficiaries are creating. It's about hope, connection, and showing these kids that someone truly cares.

Your kindness has made a lasting impact – one child, one community, and one life-changing moment at a time.



Surf therapy in the neurodiverse community

Ocean Heroes is changing neurodiverse community participation in the regions, from Broome all the way down to Esperance, through their Learn to Surf Program.

Ocean Heroes' **279 volunteers** and **24 free regional events** enabled **804 neurodiverse children** to catch waves, make friends and feel truly confident and accepted in this neuro-amazing community. Thank you, WA!

“As I watched my son catch waves, wipe out and laugh through the lesson, I admit I cried my heart out on the beach. Thank you for making this support available right where we live. It is invaluable to us and to other neurodiverse families.”

- Ocean Heroes mum, Naomi



Kids seeing clearly on country

In 2024, Lions Eye Institute's Lions Outback Vision (LOV) northwest hub screened **1,086 children** across **21 schools** in the Pilbara and Kimberley regions.

Using an innovative mobile screening van, cutting-edge telehealth services and visiting optometrists, LOV delivered essential eye care to some of WA's most remote communities.

Focusing on detecting and preventing paediatric diabetic eye disease and myopia, the team not only provided critical screenings and treatment but gathered invaluable data on Indigenous paediatric vision, a critical step in addressing unique challenges faced by rural and remote communities.

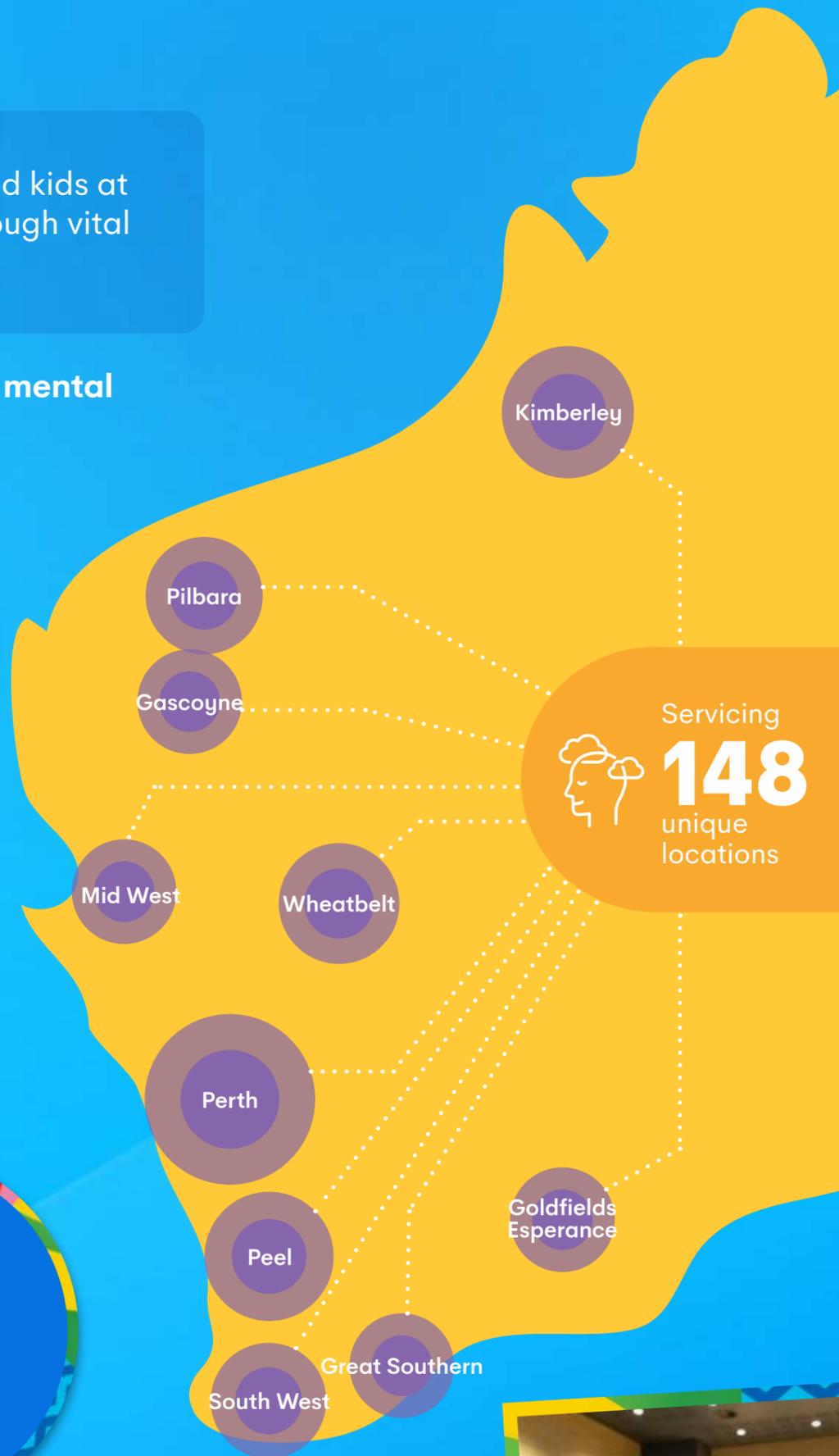


27 Telethon beneficiaries have travelled far and wide to reach **107,913 children with disadvantaged circumstances** from regional and remote WA in 2024



38 Telethon beneficiaries supported kids at risk of mental health challenges through vital services and programs.

In 2024, Telethon-funded child and youth mental health programs and services supported:



Moving the dial on **mental health** for WA kids

Standing together with one mission, 38 Telethon beneficiaries are dedicated to reducing mental health issues in vulnerable children and giving the next generation a fighting chance.

Pregnancy to Parenthood is providing vital support for parents and infants with perinatal and infant mental health services in Perth and Geraldton. With the help of Telethon funding, and in partnership with the **WA Country Health Service**, frontline staff across regional hospitals will receive training in early intervention strategies for infant mental health, ensuring families are equipped for success.

Australian Kookaburra Kids support children living with a parent who has mental health concerns. These children must step into caregiving roles and are often exposed to domestic violence, instability in schooling and housing insecurity. Pairing psychoeducation and recreational activities, Australian Kookaburra Kids ensures children have access to fun activities while providing education to help break the cycle of intergenerational trauma.

Starting high school can be an anxious time for young people. Telethon funding has given children who need it most access to workshops and programs for anxiety support, mental health, and suicide prevention. **A Stitch in Time** works in the Mid West to create equitable opportunities for children to build resilience. **zero2hero** develops networks of adolescent mental health leaders in the Kimberley, ensuring no one is left to struggle alone. **Bully Zero** is empowering vulnerable children in the metro area with the knowledge and strategies to build resilience against the effects of bullying, helping prevent further harm to themselves and their peers who may be at risk.



Championing the mental health needs of young people

Youth Focus is leading the charge by offering **free mental health counselling services** to children living with mental health challenges. Co-designed by a youth reference group, services remain contemporary and relevant to young people in WA.

Youth Focus delivered **2,275 occasions of service from Albany through to Meekatharra and Geraldton** in the past 12 months, offering youth a safe place to work through challenges using clinically trained mental health professionals.

Youth Focus has been a pillar of the mental health community, offering services and interventions for children across the State.

With more than 207,000 young people suffering with mental health illness right now in WA, Youth Focus will be moving to a new home to offer centralised care to ensure these children have the services and support they need to thrive.

“ I believe the tools have educated and empowered me, and are the reason I feel so much more confident and capable handling situations that arise. Recently, for the first time, I resolved a situation myself and booked an appointment to celebrate what I'd done rather than wait for advice on how to proceed. I feel that was a huge moment of personal progress. ”
 - Youth Focus participant

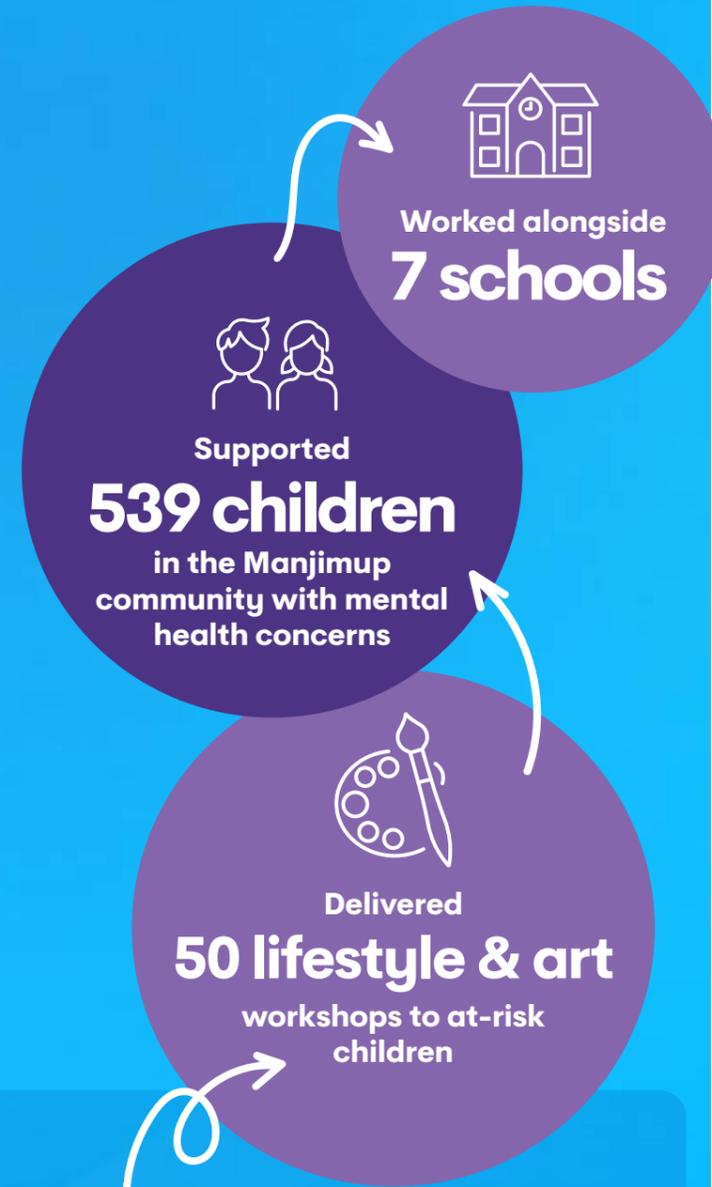
Raising a community of strong young minds

Children in rural and remote areas face an increased risk of mental health challenges and **Blackwood Youth Action (BYA)** is committed to addressing this issue. In partnership with the local community in Manjimup and surrounding areas, BYA has tasked a youth worker with becoming a local champion to build the resilience of the community and foster a culture of support and understanding.

Your kindness has supported young people, GPs, educators, parents and community groups who have rallied to create spaces and places for kids to be kids again.

One participant's parent could not speak more highly of this incredible program:

“ I can't thank BYA enough for what they've done for my child. Before joining they hardly left their room and seemed so withdrawn. It broke my heart to see them like that, but I didn't know how to help. ”
 Since getting involved in the program, everything has changed. They've started making friends and have something to look forward to each week. It's been such a relief to see my child happier and more engaged. ”
 - Program participant



One life-changing youth worker is growing the local community's capacity for support of kids in need.



In 2024, Telethon beneficiaries supported change in the trajectory of WA's kids

Lifeline is at the forefront of a mental health crisis in WA, responding to the alarming statistic of 100-200 suicide attempts for every death. Thanks to Telethon funding, Lifeline's 24/7 emergency support service provided critical help in more than **13,810 conversations** in the past 12 months to young people at risk.

Embrace at **The Kids Research Institute Australia** is Western Australia's first research collaboration devoted to the mental health of infants, children and young people. By supporting Telethon, you have enabled The Kids to undertake critical research to create evidence to build new standards of care in children's psychological and emotional well-being across the State.

Curtin University's enAble Institute, in collaboration with Telethon, is training Health Science postgraduates to become the frontline of mental health workers specifically for adolescents and help reduce wait times across the mental-health sector.

Creating safe spaces for children struggling with mental health, **Cahoots Hearts and Minds** has built a program targeting social and therapeutic interventions. Cahoots delivered **158 workshops** and engaged with **1,374 participants**, highlighting the exponential need for mental health interventions in young people.

Thanks to your generosity, **Pregnancy to Parenthood** conducted **618 free counselling sessions** for more than **250 children** and more than **600 parents** to help build stronger and more resilient family units through early interventions, ensuring our most vulnerable infants and young children experiencing mental health challenges are supported from Perth to Geraldton.

A Stitch in Time is proving that location does not matter. Reaching **21,896 children** from **108 schools** across WA, including **56 regional areas**, A Stitch in Time ensures students who are faced with disadvantage or are living within vulnerable communities have access to essential mental health resources, role-modelling and support networks.

Navigating grief and loss

Helping young hearts to heal after profound loss

Grief is a journey no one wishes to take, especially when it comes to losing a loved one too soon. Yet for many children and families, bereavement is an unavoidable reality.

Research highlights the significant risks associated with childhood grief, including mental health challenges, self-harm and substance abuse, underscoring the need for quality bereavement support.

Recognising the acute impact of loss on young people, Telethon has provided essential funding to programs and research that help children, adolescents and families navigate the challenges of grief.

Lionheart's Grief Camps provided a safe and supportive environment for **172 children**

across five camps in 2024. These camps help bereaved children understand that while grief is part of their life, it does not have to define them.

Beyond its camps, **Lionheart's Raw to Roar program** is Western Australia's first evidence-based, intensive grief support service. Raw to Roar engaged **280 children** and **117 families** in 2024, offering a structured grief pathway for children, teens, families and schools.

No matter where families are in the grieving process, your giving has provided guidance and care to our most vulnerable, regardless of financial status or location, ensuring no family must face loss alone.



1 in 20

Australian children will experience the death of a parent or loved one before the age of 18

Combating loneliness

The monumental shift a child faces when their primary carer is diagnosed with cancer is terrifying. The relationship is suddenly reversed with the child becoming a carer for their parent. This can be isolating, facing the hard truths of how challenging this world can be when you must become an adult too soon.

Camp Quality's Kids Impacted by Carer's Cancer (KICC) program helps these children to be prepared, find friendship and have a safe space to navigate big emotions with other kids who are walking the same path.

In its fifth year as a Telethon beneficiary, Camp Quality and the KICC program have now supported **more than 1200 children** who have had family members affected by cancer.

“What you do for families affected by cancer is beyond any words. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to attend the camp and be around like-minded people. And the words cancer and chemo were not taboo.”

- Camp participant



Every day in Australia,

38 children

discover that their mum, dad or sibling has cancer



When navigating loss, people living regionally have challenges accessing grief counselling which is only available through face-to-face sessions. In collaboration with Telethon, **Curtin University** researcher Dr Sarah Egan is answering this need.

Through **Project SAIL** Dr Egan and her team have developed a new self-help, interactive digital platform co-designed by 15 lived-experience youth advisory committee members. This evidence-based intervention has helped **88 adolescents** in regional or remote WA process the complexities of their loss.



Scan to learn more about **Project SAIL**.



Equipment to make a lasting change

The safest transport solutions for our youngest regional patients

Critically ill babies present some of the most challenging medical situations for doctors and nurses.

Your willingness to give has enabled the **Royal Flying Doctor Service** to install neonatal cribs supplied by Newborn Emergency Transport Services (NETS) into two RFDS helicopters.

The helicopters provide a faster response than fixed-wing aircraft flying from busy regional locations to take babies to receive specialist care at Perth Children's Hospital. The helicopters can also land on the PCH helipad, avoiding the need for risky ambulance transfers of critical patients.

With these cribs in place, transport of neonatal babies is safer, faster and they will directly improve the health and wellbeing of our smallest patients.



197

babies were saved through critical neonatal air transfers in 2024

Giving children a voice

For children with complex communication needs, having a voice can be life changing, revealing a depth of understanding their families never imagined. Telethon funding has enabled **SuperYou Therapy** to expand its alternative and augmentative communication (AAC) tool, becoming the first - and only - organisation in Western Australia to have a Grid Pad 13 with Lumin-i.

This has been life-changing for seven-year-old Gabriella who lives with multiple diagnoses. Having access to eye-gaze equipment has allowed her to communicate her own ideas for the first time, building

independence and connection with those around her.

“It has allowed for Gabriella to do things that a typical child can do, like read a book to her family.”

- Gabriella's mum, Toni.

With increased access to AAC across the State, more children are discovering their voices - and the world is finally listening.



New lifesaving equipment for our very sick kids

Venous thromboembolism (VTE) is a rare, life-threatening condition that occurs when a blood clot forms in a deep vein. Critically ill children are more likely to develop blood clots due to the intense treatment regimes they face.

Your support has aided the Child and Adolescent Health Service to acquire an AngioJet. This technology is used to treat

VTE by delivering a mechanical power pulse to the blood clot to break it apart. Designed specifically for paediatric use, the Angiojet now housed at **Perth Children's Hospital** is reducing the need to transfer immunocompromised children.

This life-saving technology ensures critically ill children receive the best possible care in a safe, child-focused environment.

Levelling the playing field for remote and regional children

Fair Game Australia has hit a few milestones:



100,000

pieces of sports equipment donated since the program began



14,469

pieces of equipment were donated across WA in 2024



66

volunteers distributed pre-loved equipment to kids in need



Telethon provided

7,156

pieces of life-changing equipment to 36 beneficiaries in 2024

Allergy: A hidden epidemic

Community and research working together to combat childhood nut allergy

More than 40,000 children in Western Australia live with chronic allergies, facing the constant threat of anaphylaxis, a life-threatening medical emergency that can lead to death.

For Monique, whose son James was diagnosed with life-threatening allergies, everyday moments like birthdays, packing school lunches and holiday celebrations became sources of fear and anxiety. Needing support and realising there was none available, she founded **Allergy Support Hub** to provide much-needed guidance and resources to families like hers.

Allergy Support Hub's **Allergy Brave Program** is a first-of-its-kind initiative in WA, offering psychological counselling to children struggling with allergy-related anxiety and social isolation. With Telethon funding, this service is free-of-charge, empowering children to better understand, manage and voice their concerns about their allergy.



More than
40,000
children in WA
live with chronic
allergies

Beyond supporting families, Allergy Support Hub plays a vital role in research, helping connect children to clinical trials aimed at reducing nut allergies in WA.

Paving the way is **Dr Michael O'Sullivan**, Immunology Consultant at **Perth Children's Hospital** and **Fiona Stanley Hospital**, who aims to reverse peanut allergies through early intervention with oral immunotherapy. The research combines clinical trials with a Virtual Immunology Clinic at FSH in the hope of building a new model of care that can be scaled and delivered to the wider community to combat more than 1,000 new peanut allergy diagnoses each year.

“*Having access to treatment means that what I want for his future could be possible one day and that is a fantastic feeling. I mean at the end of the day all parents want their kids to be well and experience life and everything it has to offer.*”

- Allergy Support Hub mum

Pioneering treatment for children with nut allergies

The team at **Perth Children's Hospital** has successfully completed a feasibility study of oral immunotherapy (OIT) for multiple nuts. This has enabled WA children with nut allergies to be the first in Australia to access this life-changing treatment.

In 2025, a research grant will support a **world-first** trial comparing different doses of OIT in preschool children with multiple nut allergies, which will help

to bring the safest and most effective treatment approach into future clinical care for WA kids.



World-first multi-generational pregnancy health study

Inducting its third generation, **The Raine Study at the University of Western Australia**, in collaboration with Telethon, is the **first-ever three-generation pregnancy cohort study in the world**. Researchers will be able to investigate intergenerational genetic, environmental and lifestyle factors associated with disease and disadvantage.

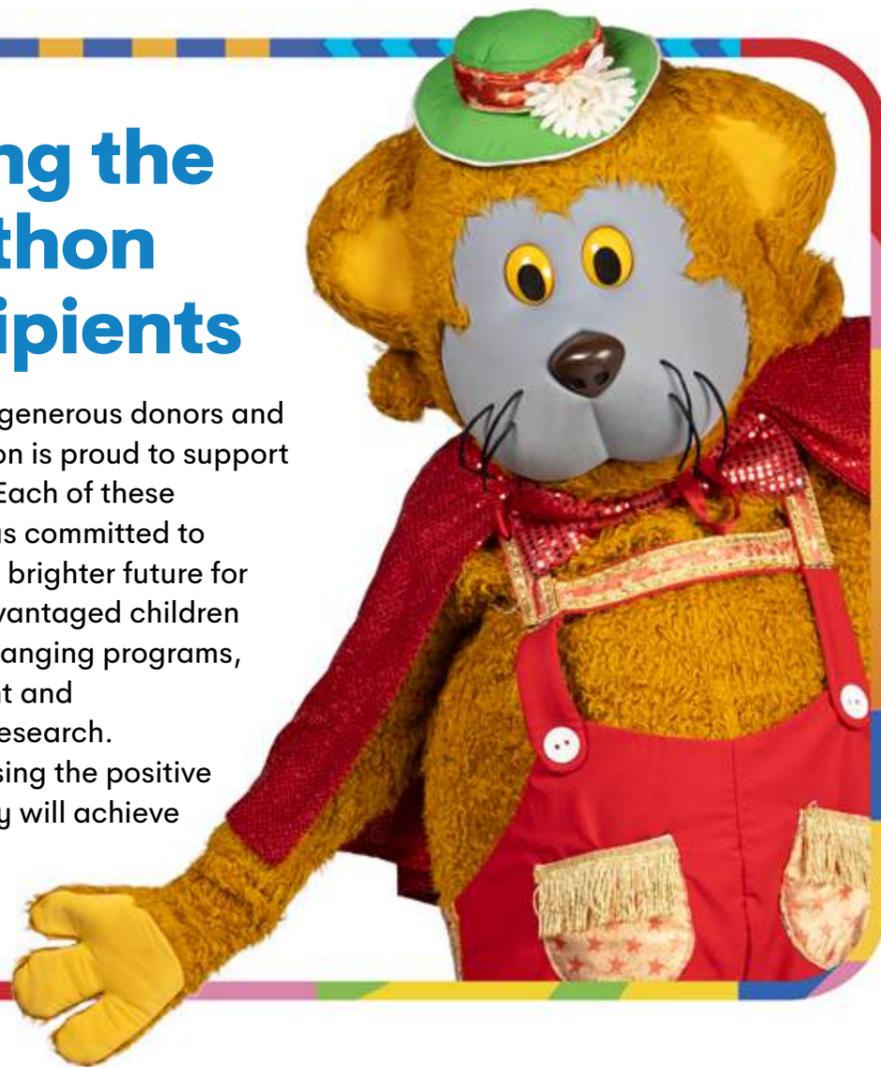
The study has already proven that networks of genes are differentially expressed in immune cells from healthy adolescents versus those with allergies or allergic asthma.

It is hoped that this new cohort will continue the study's success and uncover

more correlations not only in allergy, but also creating evidentiary support to changes of standards of care in mothers, babies and children.

Introducing the 2025 Telethon Grant recipients

With sincere thanks to our generous donors and the WA community, Telethon is proud to support 161 beneficiaries in 2025. Each of these deserving organisations has committed to playing its part to ensure a brighter future for sick, vulnerable and disadvantaged children across WA, through life-changing programs, state-of-the-art equipment and world-renowned medical research. We look forward to witnessing the positive impacts and outcomes they will achieve over the next 12 months.



Scan to discover more about each of our 2025 grant recipients



A record-breaking year for community fundraising

Telethon's success is built on the passion and generosity of the community. Every fundraiser, big or small, makes a real difference.

In 2024, the generosity of Telethon Community Fundraisers reached new heights.

In the face of a cost of living crisis, the unwavering spirit of the WA community shone through, proving that when it comes to supporting those in need, West Australians always step up.

From bake sales and lemonade stands to whole school fundraisers and extreme challenges; fundraisers of all kinds played a vital role in this record-breaking achievement, all in the name of helping sick, vulnerable and disadvantaged children across WA.

Every dollar raised by Telethon community fundraisers goes directly to providing essential care, support, equipment and life-changing opportunities for the children and families who need it most, making sure they receive the help they need during their toughest times.



In Geraldton, **Cowboy** shaved his half-century-old beard for family friend Pippa, who lives with cerebral palsy

“ I want to do something, not just for Pippa. She's the reason behind it all, but it's going to go to a good cause, Telethon! ”



Firefighters and personnel from the **Aviation Rescue Firefighting Service** climbed **60,000 stairs** as part of a gruelling **24-hour Everest** fundraising challenge



Running her first marathon, **Georgia Hurst** joined **202 runners** fundraising for Telethon in the **Perth Running Festival**

“ I know that for many children with childhood diseases, every day must feel like a marathon. ”

In their inaugural year, **Kelpies for Kids** auctioned four working **kelpie pups** raising a staggering **\$70,922** with all proceeds going to Telethon



Scan to register as a community fundraiser.



Our Trustees



Richard Goyder AO

Chairman

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



Kerry Stokes AC

Trustee

Kerry is chairman of Seven West Media and Australian Capital Equity, which has interests in media and entertainment, resources, energy, property, pastoral and mining. Along with many awards, Kerry has received Australia's highest honour, the Companion of the Order of Australia, in recognition of his contributions to business and philanthropy.



Christine Simpson Stokes AM

Trustee

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



Maryna Fewster

Trustee

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



Christopher Dore

Trustee

Christopher is the Editor-in-Chief of West Australian Newspapers and The Nightly. He is a media executive with more than three decades of experience in digital and print publishing having worked across the country in senior newsroom and leadership roles, including as Editor-in-Chief of The Australian, Editor of The Daily Telegraph in Sydney and The Courier Mail in Brisbane.



Tim Roberts

Trustee

Tim is the managing director of the Warburton Group, which oversees a diverse portfolio of investments in property, infrastructure, aquaculture, aviation, agriculture, and healthcare. Tim previously served as executive director of construction company Multiplex and held board positions at Crown Perth and mining company Mineral Resources. He also operates the Perth Jet Centre and is a patron of the Perth Symphony Orchestra and the North Cottesloe Livesaving Club.



Bill Beament

Trustee

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



Tonya McCusker AM

Trustee

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



Nick Stagg

Trustee

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



Guy Houston

Trustee

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

Thank you to our Million Dollar Partners



Scan the QR code for a list of all Telethon partners and generous event supporters.



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Telethon Weekend 2024 highlights

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

The 26-hour broadcast featured stellar music performances and entertaining acts, highlighting the spirit of giving. With record-breaking fundraising, the total raised over 57 years now exceeds an incredible \$688 million.

The beloved Telethon Family Festival drew in 80,000 families to celebrate the event, showcasing the enduring generosity of the WA community.



Save the date!
2025 Telethon Weekend
October 18 & 19





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

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