

The West Australian

**HOW 2019'S
RECORD
\$42.6M IS
BEING SPENT
EIGHT-PAGE
SPECIAL WRAP**



Why Telethon 2020 can be a beacon of hope amid COVID-19

THAT'S THE SPIRIT

ANGELA POWNALL

Telethon chair Richard Goyder has vowed that WA's much-loved fundraising event will go ahead in some form this year, despite the widespread disruption caused by coronavirus. He said Telethon may have to be done "a bit differently" this year, but he said West Australians will no doubt show their "generosity of spirit".



THE TELETHON BENEFICIARIES INSIDE

COUSINS AND THE 128 TEXTS & PHONE CALLS
FULL REPORT INSIDE



FINAL ANZAC DAY TRIBUTE POSTER INSIDE
#DRIVEWAYATDAWN



DELIVERING A BUMPER HARVEST

CAITLYN RINTOUL

Each year, OzHarvest delivers more than half a million meals to almost 23,000 children, youth and families to ensure they can grow and thrive.

Since Ronni Kahn founded the organisation in 2004, OzHarvest — one of 54 Telethon beneficiaries — has been rescuing excess food from supermarkets, retailers and corporate kitchens.

Across Perth, those supplies are delivered to 85 charities, including youth crisis refuges, disadvantaged schools, Aboriginal programs and community outreaches. Amid the COVID-19 crisis, vulnerable WA families' need for a quality meals has not wavered.

Since the outbreak, OzHarvest has received high-profile donations from industries directly impacted, including 6000 meals from Virgin Australia and \$70,000 worth of food and beverages from Optus Stadium and some highly sought-after toilet paper from Quilton.

WA State manager Jennifer Keen said last year alone funding from Telethon had helped OzHarvest reach out to a further 18 schools, building on the 73 already signed up.



Noah Robinson, 7, and Xanthe Thornley, 7.
Picture: Simon Santi

IT'S THE FIGHTING SPIRIT

Much-loved fundraiser to go ahead despite COVID

ANGELA POWNALL

Telethon chairman Richard Goyder has vowed that WA's much-loved fundraising event will go ahead in some form this year, despite the widespread disruption caused by coronavirus.

Channel 7 Perth's Telethon Weekend is scheduled for October 24 and 25, but could be affected if limits on mass gatherings to prevent the spread of COVID-19 are not lifted in time.

Mr Goyder does not expect Telethon to exceed last year's \$42.6 million fundraising total, given the financial impact of the virus. Instead he called on WA to show its "generosity of spirit".

"We can do things a bit differently and we might have to do things a bit differently, but there will be some sort of Telethon weekend," Mr Goyder, pictured, said.

"We could be a part of the good news story in terms of recovery because I think people, as we come out of this, are going to want that community engagement and solidarity as a community."

Australians have been warned they will have to live with social distancing restrictions until at least October.

Mr Goyder said the Telethon trustees were looking at different scenarios

and a decision would be made closer to the event. Telethon has broken its own fundraising record year on year to raise more than \$350 million for children in need since it began in 1968.

But Mr Goyder conceded that this year could be different.

"It would be extraordinary to surpass last year given the generosity people had to bushfires and the economic consequences of coronavirus," he said.

"I think we're actually more interested this year in the generosity of spirit. Telethon can be bigger and better than ever, even if the tally board isn't."

Mr Goyder and Telethon's board of trustees have distributed the \$42.6 million raised last year to 54 beneficiaries.

Restrictions because of COVID-19 will prevent some organisations from carrying out their Telethon-funded project, but Mr Goyder said they would still get the money.

He urged people to do what they could to help this year.

"They may not be able to help as much as they have in the past, but they'll certainly help them, and they'll say we want this thing to show our

mettle as a community," he said.

"In other words, it shows that we're a caring, giving community despite what have been very difficult circumstances."



Little stars shine for life-changing donations

ANGELA POWNALL

Seeing more than \$42 million handed over to help WA children has topped off an unforgettable year for Little Telethon Stars Eva Molloy and Callum Berrisford.

Eva and Callum, pictured with 7NEWS presenter Amelia Broun, have been the young faces of Telethon since last year, fronting the record-breaking Telethon weekend and travelling the State to bring in donations.

Eva said she was happy and proud to have been a part of Telethon and helped to have raised the money.

"I wanted to show people how important fundraising and continuing to donate is so that other kids don't have to go without or feel unsupported," Eva, who has spina bifida,



a controlled seizure disorder and bilateral hip dysplasia, said.

"I don't even know how much \$42 million looks like, but I know it's a lot of money and I know it will help make a difference to many kids across WA."

Eva's mother Sylvia said they felt lucky and grateful that Telethon helped organisations that provided support to families like theirs.

"Having a child be sick long term, having a child with a disability, facing uncertainty and still running a family is so challenging," she said.

Callum's father Jake said Telethon had been a fantastic opportunity for his son, who had neuroblastoma as a baby, the treatment of which left him with hearing loss, slow growth and missing adult teeth. "He was like a star, a natural. It was amazing how comfortable he was, even though he was nervous at the start," he said.

Broun, who has been involved with Telethon for almost a decade, said the event had taken on a new meaning for her after having her first child Henry seven months ago.

Rebound WA

Every one of our members has a story about what their life is like living with a physical disability and how we've helped them to explore possibility.

See their stories at www.reboundwa.com

MUMS' GUT INSTINCTS



ANGELA POWNALL

The impact of antibiotics taken by pregnant women on their baby's gut microbiome and future health will be investigated in pioneering WA research funded by Telethon.

Antibiotics are often given to women during pregnancy to treat bacterial infections or pre-emptively treat infections during childbirth.

Research has shown that the health of an infant's gut microbiome is associated with the development of allergies and conditions like asthma.

Matt Payne, a University of WA microbiologist who is leading the study for the Women and Infants Research Foundation, said though certain types of antibiotics were safe for use during pregnancy, it was unknown if they affected an infant's developing gut microbiome, or indeed if an unborn baby has any gut bacteria.

But research published by Dr Payne last year revealed bacterial DNA in all samples of meconium (a baby's first bowel movement), possibly indicating the existence of a gut microbiome before birth.

"We wondered if the infant gut is seeded during pregnancy. Let's assume that actually does happen," he said. "A lot of women take antibiotics during pregnancy for a range of conditions like UTIs and they'll take anti-fungals for thrush.

"We wondered to what extent that could impact on how the child's gut

microbiome develops over the first year of life."

Dr Payne said he suspected antibiotics taken during pregnancy had little impact on a baby's gut microbiome because he did not believe it existed in the second or third trimester.

"Even though we expect there to be a minimal, if any, effect on the infant at all, it needs to be shown," he said.

Dr Payne will recruit 100 pregnant patients at King Edward Memorial and St John of God Subiaco hospitals who take antibiotics during their pregnancy. Using a swab from a soiled nappy, their child's gut microbiome will be analysed at four weeks and 12 months old.

Belinda Wilkinson, pictured, who gave birth to Regan this month, did not take antibiotics during her pregnancies.

"It would definitely concern me if there was evidence to suggest taking antibiotics could have negative health ramifications for my baby," she said.

"In saying this, I would rely on my doctor's advice, and if antibiotics were necessary, I would be guided by them."

BUBS & GOOD BUGS

- Antibiotics are widely prescribed to women during pregnancy but their impact on a baby's gut microbiome is unknown.

- Research has shown an association between the gut microbiome and the development of allergies and conditions like asthma.

- Dr Payne said the overarching belief is that antibiotic use in pregnancy is very safe as long as the correct antibiotics are used.

- Other factors will be taken into account in the study such as whether an infant is breastfed and if they live with a pet.

Helping fathers & creating safe havens for autistic kids

CAITLYN RINTOUL

A big winner in this year's Telethon grants program is dads with autistic kids.

Autism Western Australia's initiative, aimed specifically at providing help and activities for fathers with children on the autism spectrum, has been supported by the charity.

Through regular support groups and events, such as building go-karts and having barbecues with their children, the program aims to create a unique community for dads with similar

experiences. Money raised will go towards developing tailored resources, including autism-specific tip sheets, videos and infobites from a father's perspective.

The program was developed after the organisation identified that mothers were often more "intensively involved" through the assessment, diagnostic and intervention processes, while



most fathers had been unable to attend for various reasons. Each year, Telethon also helps fund

Autism West's dedicated camp, which allows children to engage with others and learn important practical skills.

While Autism West's Telethon Holiday Maker program was postponed this year because of coronavirus, the organisation has found other ways to keep students engaged, including using Zoom and Tik Tok. One WA family with

nothing but praise for the work of Autism West and its Telethon Holiday Makers program is Darrel Waller and Amanda Davies. Their son Cameron, 14, pictured far left, has been engaging with Autism West for the past five years and has met a community of like-minded people through the program.

"It's a little safe haven for him," Ms Davies said.

"If he has any problems at school or in the outside world he knows he has always got ... life-long friendships within that little community."

HELP IS AT HAND FOR BUBS AT RISK

While making birth pain-free is an impossible promise to deliver, ensuring an easy process of getting to and from hospital for birth and follow up check-up is the focus of the NICU Helping Little Hands program.

Helping Little Hands has supported families of premature and sick babies by removing practical obstacles to spending time in hospital. The program is fairly new — only 2½ years old — but helps families when a baby is admitted to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at King Edward Memorial Hospital.

At the helm of the important work is Joanne Beedie, who manages to help families across the metropolitan area with tangible support and raise four children aged six and under.

"Our submission to Telethon was to support Aboriginal families who had or have had premature babies," Ms Beedie said.

"Our charity focus is around supporting all families of premature babies with practical things, such as food supplies, meal packages, fuel vouchers — anything that removes the practical daily challenges of life when they're in a stressful situation. Over the last year, what we had really identified was that our support really wasn't reaching Aboriginal families and there were additional challenges that they faced. Things around the cultural concept of 'shame' — so not being seen to accept help so readily as it may be a sign of weakness.

"Aboriginal families . . . record more prematurity than anyone else in WA and the rates of follow-up for those families is really low," Ms Beedie said.

"So we worked with Aboriginal parents and the cultural liaison officer at (KEMH) and came up with a specific program . . . for Aboriginal families."

She said regular check-ups were critical to babies and doctors to identify any issues and put preventive measures in place.

Caitlyn Rintoul

Peter Gething, inaugural Kerry Stokes Chair in Child Health.
Picture: Jackson Flindell



DISEASE SLEUTH ON THE TRAIL OF A KILLER

Expert maps exit from virus lockdown

KIM MACDONALD

Well-known disease detective Peter Gething will use his world-renowned modelling system to show how relaxing specific coronavirus restrictions will affect public health.

Professor Gething — who was appointed the Kerry Stokes Chair in Child Health and Professor in Epidemiology at Curtin University and Telethon Kids Institute in September — will offer the information to State and Federal governments.

The information could then be used to map out exit strategies from restrictions in place to stop the spread of the deadly pandemic.

Coronavirus has affected children as well as adults, with reports earlier this month that seven children aged nine and under had tested positive for COVID-19 in WA, as well as a further seven children and teenagers aged between 10 and 19 years.

Indirectly, the pandemic has disrupted children's education and for many, their sense of mental health and their wellbeing, too.

Like all good detectives, Professor Gething is thinking a few steps ahead.

"We are not out of the woods by any stretch — we have just bought ourselves some time," he said. "We've controlled the ini-

tial surge, but we can't just remove the restrictions because we will go back to square one very, very quickly."

To figure out the next step, he and his team are developing geographic, granular models that are a "virtual representation" of WA's 2.5 million residents.

The virtual residents broadly

We are not out of the woods by any stretch — we have just bought ourselves some time.
Professor Peter Gething

represent each of us by location and characteristics such as age, occupation and patterns of movement.

"Once we set those kind of simulations up, we can ask very detailed questions about easing up different restrictions, like what would happen if we allowed gatherings of 100 again, instead of gatherings of two," he said.

"We can make imaginary gatherings of 100 people of different types and different ages,

and simulate how that would change the likelihood of the disease spreading to large numbers of people very rapidly.

"We can look at schools, and food shopping centres, beaches, you name it," Professor Gething said.

"Hopefully as a result the Government — instead of having a blanket lockdown — can progressively scale it back in a way that minimises risk and maximises economic and social benefit.

"So some things would have to remain closed, but we can return to some normality, and we can get a bit more economic function going on in the State.

"But at the moment that would just be guesswork." His analytical tools, which involve a whole range of computational and statistical models, have been progressively established over the past decade, during Professor Gething's previous post at the University of Oxford where he headed the international Malaria Atlas Project.

MAP is the official scorekeeper for malaria, which kills half a million children each year, reporting to the World Health Organisation and national governments.

By monitoring the use of drugs and bed nets, as well as the prevalence of the disease, they are able to inform policy decisions in affected countries.

A career highlight came in

A GOOD CLEAN FIGHT AGAINST DANGEROUS INFECTIONS

CAITLYN RINTOUL

While the world grapples with COVID-19, breaking the chain of an infection has been the sole focus of one Perth organisation since it was founded in 2012.

The Amanda Young Foundation Support works to support research, raise awareness of and reduce deaths from meningococcal

disease. Since the global pandemic, simple messages of hygiene they have been sharing for years has been at the forefront of the virus fight.

Like COVID-19, meningococcal disease does not discriminate against age, race, gender or health, however, the most at-risk category is children aged 0-5 followed by adolescents and young adults.

The bacterial infection can make people critically ill and can kill within hours. That's why the organisation started its Kiddy Canter program that helps educate children early about the dangers of sharing water bottles and the importance of washing hands and coughing or sneezing into their elbows to avoid the spread of bacteria.

The initiative is one that has

drawn the attention of Telethon for another year.

Kiddy Canter aims to teach important basic hygiene to children at early learning centres, kindergartens and pre-primaries.

Parents are given information on the signs and symptoms of meningococcal sepsis and meningitis.

The centre produces a educational coloured book

annually to read to children, which all contain the same health messages, just based around another theme.

This year's theme — the centre's seventh production — will be 'the doctor comes to town'. "It fits in with 'staying home when you're sick' which I never thought would be so appropriate today with COVID-19," education program manager Deanna Howell said.

2015 when Professor Gething's team fought a move by the British Government to remove funding from the fight against malaria.

He presented their research, done in conjunction with WHO, to the British Parliament, which played a direct role in reversing the funding decision.

"A lot of lives were saved as a result of that decision," he said.

The State has not only benefited in having MAP's research move to WA, but also in having several of Professor Gething's Oxford staff follow him to Perth so they can continue working with him on the international research.

WA will be the beneficiary of his modelling systems in other ways, too, as he is also applying it to some big local health

issues being addressed at the Telethon Kids Institute, such as middle ear infections, which is particularly prevalent among indigenous children.

The modelling will address the distribution of the disease, considering why it is prevalent in some places, and the underlying factors and drivers.

"It will help to really try to understand patterns of disease

across the State in a way that hasn't been done before," he said.

Mapping out the hotspots for diseases and conditions will also highlight how well health resources are reaching those in need of support. It can also be used to help measure other issues which affect children's wellbeing, such as education.

Professor Gething said he had

two goals as the Kerry Stokes Chair in Child Health. One was to fly a flag for TKI and its world-class research on the international stage.

"The other goal is to make a difference locally, and commensurate with the goals of Telethon Kids, to have happy, healthy kids," he said. "We are all working to that common goal in lots of different ways."

Twins Nate Hadley and Lachlan Hadley, 5.
Picture: Danella Bevis



'Why' is powerful. The more we ask it, the further it takes us. It helps us find causes, cures and therapies to ensure every kid has a healthy, happy childhood.

Professor Jonathan Carapetis AM
Executive Director, Telethon Kids Institute

why?

Asking 'why' may be difficult but never before has it been more important.

As we tackle COVID-19 together, and beyond, we'll never stop asking and answering the big questions for the sake of our kids and community.

Thank you Telethon for helping us to change lives here in WA, and all over the world.

TELETHON KIDS INSTITUTE
Discover. Prevent. Cure.

THE 2020 TELETHON GRANT RECIPIENTS

Telethon is transforming the lives of children in WA and beyond. Thanks to our incredibly generous community, Telethon is giving out more than \$42 million this year to organisations that support the wellbeing of children and their families.

12 Buckets
Striving to equip primary school students in need of mentoring with the skills to build resilience and work towards a brighter future.

Ability Centre
The In-Home Baby Intervention Service (IBIS) is a support based in the home that bridges the gap from the time a baby is identified as having a potential developmental delay or disability until a formal diagnosis can be made at 24 months.

Ability Solutions
Assisting children with high-care needs by creating opportunities for physical and social interactions. The High Care Kids program will identify and engage children who are disadvantaged due to disability and provide the chance for more kids to have fun in their home, school or community.

The Amanda Young Foundation
Through the Kiddy Canter program, a toolkit is provided to early learning centres, kindergartens, pre-primary classes and parents to teach basic hygiene practices to kids, reducing the chances of them contracting infectious diseases, including deadly meningococcal.

Anglicare WA
The Young Hearts program is a domestic violence counselling service for children, dedicated to breaking the cycle of family abuse. Young Hearts puts young people first, helping those most vulnerable in our community build healthy

relationships and develop skills to thrive in the future.

Asthma WA
The Paediatric Respiratory Hub will be the first service of its kind in WA and combines paediatric respiratory testing with comprehensive individualised education from a Respiratory Health Educator, and an appointment with a respiratory specialist – all at the one appointment.

Australian Children's Music Foundation
Through music, disadvantaged children and at-risk youth are provided a creative and imaginative outlet to realise that the challenging world they have been exposed to is not the only one possible.

Autism Association WA
Providing support to children with autism and their families through the Early Indicators and First Steps Playground program for younger children, and teaching computer and technology skills to adolescent children through Coder Club 4 Autism.

Autism West
The Telethon Holiday Makers Program allows young people with autism to explore their strengths in a fun and engaging atmosphere.

Cahoots
Delivering fun-filled, supportive recreation camps for children with intellectual disabilities, while providing much-needed respite for their families.

Camp Quality
Providing a dedicated co-ordinator to support families through their cancer experience by creating opportunities for children and parents to relax, laugh and have fun with others who are going through a similar experience.

Carers WA
Young carers supporting families where someone has an illness or disability are offered respite from the responsibilities of their role by attending an overnight camp and meeting other young people in the same situation.

Child and Adolescent Health Service (CAHS)
Provides services to WA children and is committed to promoting their lifelong health. CAHS is made up of Neonatology, Community Health, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services and Perth Children's Hospital. Telethon support is enabling research excellence across CAHS, including the Telethon Clinical Research Centre and other treatment options for WA children and adolescents.

Conductive Education Charity of WA
Provides WA children with complex motor disorders and allied neurological conditions access to conductive education programs – a comprehensive and unique system of education focusing on all aspects of development.

Constable Care Child Safety Foundation
Young people in the Goldfields region will have the opportunity to engage in a creative program that develops critical thinking and decision-making skills. Through theatre, students examine important social problems and issues being experienced in their school community.

Curtin University
The Kerry Stokes Chair of Child Health, named in honour of Seven Network chairman and Telethon trustee Kerry M Stokes AC for the enormous contribution he has made to child health research in WA, will drive ground-breaking health and medical research benefiting children.

Cystic Fibrosis WA
The Regional Support and Vulnerable Families Programs provide school, community and hospital-based education, financial support, counselling, advocacy and a means to connect to other parents and carers, including siblings.

Down Syndrome WA
The developmental playgroups and peer support programs provide up-to-date information and targeted support to help families adjust to a Down syndrome diagnosis and give children the best chance to develop to their full potential.

Dyslexia-SPELD Foundation WA
Children in regional areas are particularly at risk of literacy difficulties. The ability to understand and use language forms the basis of literacy and academic learning, socialisation and participation in the community and within the family, and allows children to explore new concepts, share ideas and express emotions.

Edmund Rice Camps
Empowering and inspiring at-risk kids aged between 7 and 17 years through the delivery of respite camps aimed at improving mental health and resilience.

Foodbank WA
The School Breakfast program provides disadvantaged children with a healthy breakfast to encourage them to attend school

and be ready for the start of the school day. Children learn the importance of a good breakfast in order to learn and play.

Hannah's House
Dedicated to supporting children with life-limiting conditions and complex needs and their families. Our vision is to provide care, comfort and joy for every child with a life-limiting condition and their family in 'Hannah's House' and in their own home.

Healthy Strides Foundation
Kindy Moves will provide an intensive early intervention program for children with neurological conditions and injuries in the community. The program will combine the research-backed approaches in a new and unique way to improve quality of life for meaningful participation.

HeartKids WA
The Beyond The Heart program allows parents of children with chronic heart disease across WA to feel emotionally and practically supported, and well-informed and educated, throughout their child's health journey, during hospital stays and within the community.

Horse Power Swan Valley
A range of horse-orientated programs designed to improve the health, wellbeing and social inclusion of children who suffer a range of challenges as a result of illness, trauma, physical restrictions, learning difficulties, mental health issues or autism.

Inclusion Solutions
Eight local community soccer clubs across Perth will welcome children to be part of the United Reds Football League, with a focus on providing children with disabilities the opportunity to gain a sense of

belonging within their local football club.

Joondalup Health Campus
The ORIGINS project is a 10-year research study of pregnant women, babies and their partners aimed at improving the next generation through early diagnosis and intervention. This study will investigate how early environment and lifestyle influences affect child development.

Kalparrin
The Kalparrin Hospital Support program will provide practical, emotional support and information to families caring for children with developmental delay, disability, genetic condition or a chronic medical or health condition, who are inpatients or outpatients at Perth Children's Hospital.

Legacy WA
Upgrading camp facilities and accommodation for children who have lost a parent in the Australian armed services. These camps develop skills, build friendships and develop bonds with others grieving the loss of a parent or spouse.

Make-A-Wish
Providing dream come true wishes to children facing life-threatening illnesses, creating hope, joy, happiness and unforgettable memories.

Muscular Dystrophy WA
The Adolescent Resilience and Capacity Building program is based on research from the Telethon-funded Adolescent Early Intervention pilot project and builds social and development skills to help children cope in adverse situations

Ngala
Building the capacity of WA families, services and communities to work

together through the Platforms Framework, an innovative research-based program to facilitate localised planning and service integration.

NICU Helping Hands
Helping Little Hands supports the needs of Aboriginal families in overcoming practical obstacles, such as transport and food costs associated with travelling, that stand in the way of them spending time with their prematurely born baby.

OzHarvest
Providing the delivery of nutritious food through the Food Rescue program which improves the health and wellbeing of vulnerable children and young people from family violence and disability support services.

Parkerville Children and Youth Care
Child and Family Advocate services for the Multiagency Investigation and Support Team (MIST), providing support and advocacy to children and families following disclosure of child sexual abuse.

Rebound WA
The 'Giving Kids a Go' program works to remove barriers, both physical and mental, so that children with a physical disability can have the same participation opportunities as their able-bodied peers.

RedKite
The Cancer Journey program provides professional support that enables children and young people with cancer to cope with the emotional, social, financial, practical and educational impact of cancer, leading to improved quality of life.

Saba Rose Button Foundation
The rehabME INTENSIVE COLLECTIVE (RIC) aims to allow special needs children to access intensive therapy in Perth. It seeks to provide families and children the opportunity to meet therapists to set and achieve rehabilitation goals.

Starlight Children's Foundation
The Livewire Ward and Workshop program transforms the hospital experience for young people with chronic health conditions, mental health issues and disability by offering resilience enhancing and age appropriate activities for social connectivity, creative expression and personal development.

Superfins WA
Providing swimming lessons to children with physical and intellectual disabilities through the Learn to Swim program.

Telethon Kids Institute
Telethon Kids Institute discovers causes, cures and treatments to improve the lives of kids and young people. TKI is responsible for many ground-breaking discoveries bringing together community, researchers, practitioners, policymakers and funders, who share the vision of improving the health and wellbeing of children through excellence in research. Leading researchers work hard to free young people from many diseases and conditions including cancer, leukaemia, diabetes, autism, asthma and cystic fibrosis.

Telethon Speech and Hearing
Through the Power of Speech, Power of Children project, Telethon Speech and Hearing aims to provide WA with the most effective and extensive set of language support programs,

accessible from anywhere in the State.

The Fathering Project
Inspiring and encouraging fathers and father figures in our community to be more present and proactive at every stage of their children's life.

The Salvation Army
The Balga Early Learning Centre provides teachers with an early intervention program for at-risk children, ensuring they have the skills needed to start school and develop at their own pace.

Therapy Focus
Providing equipment, access to programs and modifications to homes and vehicles for children and young people with disabilities to improve mobility, health and wellness and assist them to move independently in their home and community.

Thriving
Helping children and adolescents affected by physical, mental or behavioural conditions through the provision of supervised, individualised and progressive exercise to improve fitness and movement.

Type 1 Diabetes Family Centre
Supporting children with Type 1 diabetes and their families through specialised programs and services including camps, nutrition and insulin workshops and clinical psychology support.

University of WA
Testing an innovative approach to treating infants with breathing difficulties after birth. Applying a world-first method developed at UWA to test children with leukaemia for low levels of residual disease after treatment.

VisAbility
'Books and Bazza' is a specialised dog-assisted playgroup for preschool aged children who have a developmental delay or disability, giving them a very soft introduction to therapy and helping to alleviate their fears and anxiety.

WA Disabled Sports Association
Rhythm Rebels aims to use highly modified activities and adaptive musical equipment to engage children with severe and complex disabilities in music to gain the physical, cognitive, social and motivational benefits of music. Wheelchair Warriors engages children with disabilities in competitive Olympic/Paralympic-style multi-sport activities.

Wheels for Hope
Providing loan wheelchair accessible vans to assist families to transport their children safely to school, medical and therapy appointments, social activities and family outings. It aims to change the lives of WA families with disability with the gift of mobility.

Women & Infants Research Foundation
Providing ongoing research into preterm births, which remains the primary reason for neonatal deaths in Australia.

Youth Focus
To prevent youth suicide and depression by providing professional counselling to support young people during vulnerable stages, giving them the resilience to deal with life's challenges.

"Giving is not just about making a donation, it's about making a difference!"

Learn more about our support and involvement with primary and high school programs giving children the ability to develop based on their specific needs through conductive education.

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Telethon saves young lives

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Telethon Speech & Hearing

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Fighting meningococcal disease

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GIVING BACK FOR WA KIDS

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As part of Seven Group Holdings, WesTrac is proud to be a long-term supporter of Telethon.

Each year our dedicated team contributes to Telethon by donating, fundraising and volunteering to help WA children in need get access to the best possible facilities and care.

Telethon is close to all of our hearts. During these challenging times, we encourage you to join us in getting involved and look forward to continuing our support for many years to come.



THE FIRST CHOICE IN EQUIPMENT SOLUTIONS

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