

2023



HeartKids

**ANNUAL  
IMPACT  
REPORT**

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## HEARTKIDS IS THE ONLY NATIONAL CHARITY SUPPORTING AUSTRALIANS IMPACTED BY CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE

Every day, eight children are born with a heart defect, leading to a life-changing experience for a family. Tragically, four lives are lost each week due to this condition.

At HeartKids, our vision is that every child, teenager, and adult in Australia with childhood-acquired heart disease (CoHD), also known as congenital heart disease (CHD), has a fighting chance to live a long, healthy, and fulfilling life.

We aim to support over 80,000 Australian children, teens, and adults registered as impacted by CHD. We support families from all over Australia, with the demand for support increasing in regional and remote Indigenous communities.

HeartKids presence in children's hospitals across Australia continues to grow. Our support coordinators are developing new and innovative support services and increasing our reach to a broader community of people from non-English speaking backgrounds, to inform and educate them on CHD.

### Our Motivation

Heart disease is a leading cause of death and hospitalisation of Australian babies. HeartKids fights for those babies born with CHD, and we continue to help them for life.

### Our Values

Every day, HeartKids cares for courageous children, teens, young adults and families at a time when they need it most. Dedicated and skilled coordinators are involved in providing support, together with the health care teams, families and the broader community, all determined to make a real difference to the future of heart kids.

Many of the children we support have long term, life threatening illnesses. HeartKids provides direct support, understanding and information to these children and their families, and continues to assist them throughout their lives as they experience the many challenges and milestones that are typical of a heart kid's journey.

### Why we do what we do

HeartKids believes that well-informed and supported families are better able to cope with the day-to-day care of their child and management of the condition. We find that many of the questions and needs they have are not medical in nature.

You can find out more about HeartKids through our website - [heartkids.org.au](https://heartkids.org.au)

### Our work, our impact

HeartKids work is outcome focused and demonstrates real impact for families and for the community. Specifically, we:

- Deliver high quality support services via all major Australian children's hospitals and in the community
- Provide quality information to guide families on their whole life journey
- Drive world class research into the causes, treatment and management of CHD; committing up to \$4 million to date
- Advocate for the people with congenital heart disease, their families and carers.



# 80,000

Australians diagnosed as living with CHD

# 3,000

babies born each year in Australia with CHD

# 8

families are impacted everyday

# 4

children who die from CHD in Australia every week.

# 3

A baby is born every three hours in Australia with CHD.

# 0

There is no known cure.



Dylan



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND CEO

This last year has been a powerful year of transformation and growth for HeartKids as we settle into a post COVID world. Notwithstanding the increased cost of living burden which has impacted many Australian families, HeartKids revenue has continued to grow and can be attributed to a number of levers:

- our grassroots community who have continued to support HeartKids' major fundraising campaigns,
- the ongoing generosity of our corporate partners and sponsors,
- a very generous bequest, and
- some philanthropic foundations and government grants.

This has culminated in a successful year that has seen the organisation continue to evolve and mature to become more impactful and financially robust.

As a result HeartKids has finished the year with a strong revenue base which has enabled us to expand our service offerings to the HeartKids community. During FY23 HeartKids have been able to:

- increase direct support to individuals and families, both in terms of the numbers and financial assistance provided,
- expand our Model of Support to include evidence-based trials in early intervention and mental health support,
- fund more camps for both families and teens; and
- produce a variety of podcasts and increased range of educational resources.

Additionally, HeartKids continues to drive key initiatives to support those impacted by CoHD and the broader Children's cardiac sector through the Action Plan - notably the development of the National Standards of Care for Childhood-onset heart disease project, or the CoHD Standards. The CoHD Standards were developed with input from over 130 health professionals including cardiologists, nurses, allied health, mental health specialists and government representatives, as well as guidance from people with lived experience of CoHD. The National Standards are a first for Australia, with publication coming in early 2024.

The development of the Standards of Care also shone a light on ensuring a consistent and accurate descriptor for CoHD. The CoHD Standards will refer to Childhood-onset heart disease (CoHD) which is a general term that covers all types of heart abnormalities that begin in childhood. This includes both congenital heart disease and heart conditions acquired after birth. CoHD often has implications throughout whole of life.

Our valued partnerships and relationships with the national network of Children's Hospitals continue to grow, with Support Coordinators now back in all major Children's Hospitals. These vital services provide practical support to individuals and families, along with ongoing advocacy. This work extends to supporting teenagers as they transition to adult care, and increasingly we are looking at how we can provide more information and support to adults.

In early 2023 Lesley Jordan joined HeartKids as CEO, followed closely by Marcus Sandmann as Chief Marketing Officer/COO and Paul Harris as CFO. Since the appointment of the new executive the organisation has undergone a restructure which recognises HeartKids' national footprint. The new structure is a portfolio-based leadership model with key senior leaders managing a national portfolio whilst operationally managing the local hub, ensuring valued local relationships continue to be nurtured. While the structure may have changed slightly, our business focus remains the same:

- improving the delivery of services to support the CoHD community,
- the provision of education, information and resources on CoHD,
- advocacy and supporting research, and
- fundraising to ensure a sustainable future.

In closing we wish to thank departing CEO Fiona Ellis for her two years of service. We would also like to thank the HeartKids team who over the last year have continued to demonstrate their commitment and risen to the challenge in an ever-changing world. We are also fortunate to have dedicated and committed regular donors, corporate sponsors and volunteers who all contribute in some way to HeartKids' success.

Lastly a big thank you to the Board, who are all volunteers, providing considerable expertise and good governance. We would like to particularly thank our outgoing HeartKids Deputy Chair Jayne Blake and Company Secretary Jared Brotherston who have both provided significant leadership and support over many years.



Elizabeth Foley  
Chair



Lesley Jordan  
CEO





Aurora

DEMAND FOR HEARTKIDS SUPPORT HAS REACHED RECORD LEVELS IN TERMS OF BOTH REACH AND RANGE OF SUPPORT NEEDED

HeartKids offers a number of support programs for families that improve well-being in the community through staff, volunteers and partner programs. These programs include, but not limited to, offering care bags to families upon hospital admission, emotional support, direct financial assistance, mental health support, and virtual support sessions via Zoom or online resources. Most significantly, HeartKids offers connection to a community of families undergoing similar journeys through life with CHD, allowing families to feel less isolated.

HeartKids operates out of hubs located in all major capital cities across Australia, and has a significant regional outreach program to ensure that all children, parents and extended families experience support that empowers them and improves the holistic care they receive. HeartKids also employs staff in regional locations including Townsville and Darwin; with further investment in our regional support program, we will expand our services into other regional areas.

Impact from donations

Without donations and fundraising support, we cannot continue to support the large HeartKids community through in-hospital support, psychology services, transitional care, peer-to-peer activities, financial assistance, family advocacy, CHD education, and information. We have also been able to introduce a range of new support services, including the video series CHD Real Talk , continue our popular From The Heart Podcast, and provide new resources and factsheets to better support the community.

The generosity of our supporters has helped us carry out an astounding 6,993 support occasions for HeartKids families, making sure HeartKids was there for every step of these families’ journeys, with 584 families receiving invaluable financial assistance throughout the financial year.

Donations also translate into tangible relief for HeartKids families, offering Meal Vouchers, Grocery Vouchers, and Shopping Discounts, significantly easing the burden these families bear during the challenging times.

Donations will also go towards HeartKids’ goal in 2023/ 24 to increase access to our support services and programs across Australia, with a particular focus on those living in isolated communities, and to provide a comprehensive range of community and support services across CHD diagnosis, community care, early childhood intervention, teen transitional care, adult cardiac, and palliative care.

Heartkids continues to evolve our business model and will continue to develop hybrid service delivery with both on-line and face-to-face support available to support everyone, especially our rural and remote families. This will extend to our events and fundraising activities as we adapt to meet our community’s need.

Our Services

In-hospital and Community care	In-hospital diagnosis and early care support for families
Education Resources	In-hospital, podcasts, digital content and professional education modules
Family Advocacy	In-hospital and community
Financial Support	Provide families with financial assistance during times of hardship due to extended hospital stays, and financial assistance for bereavement
Care Support	Provide families with practical items eg Care bags and Coles Cards/ food vouchers to support them during hospital stays
‘Journey’ Referrals	Referral service and support to HeartKids and their families/ carers across their journey: Health Service   Financial   Accommodation   Travel



HeartKids support service impact in FY23

6,993  
Support occasions across our services

3,772  
Face to face support services

2,253  
Support calls made and including calls received to our 1800 support phone line

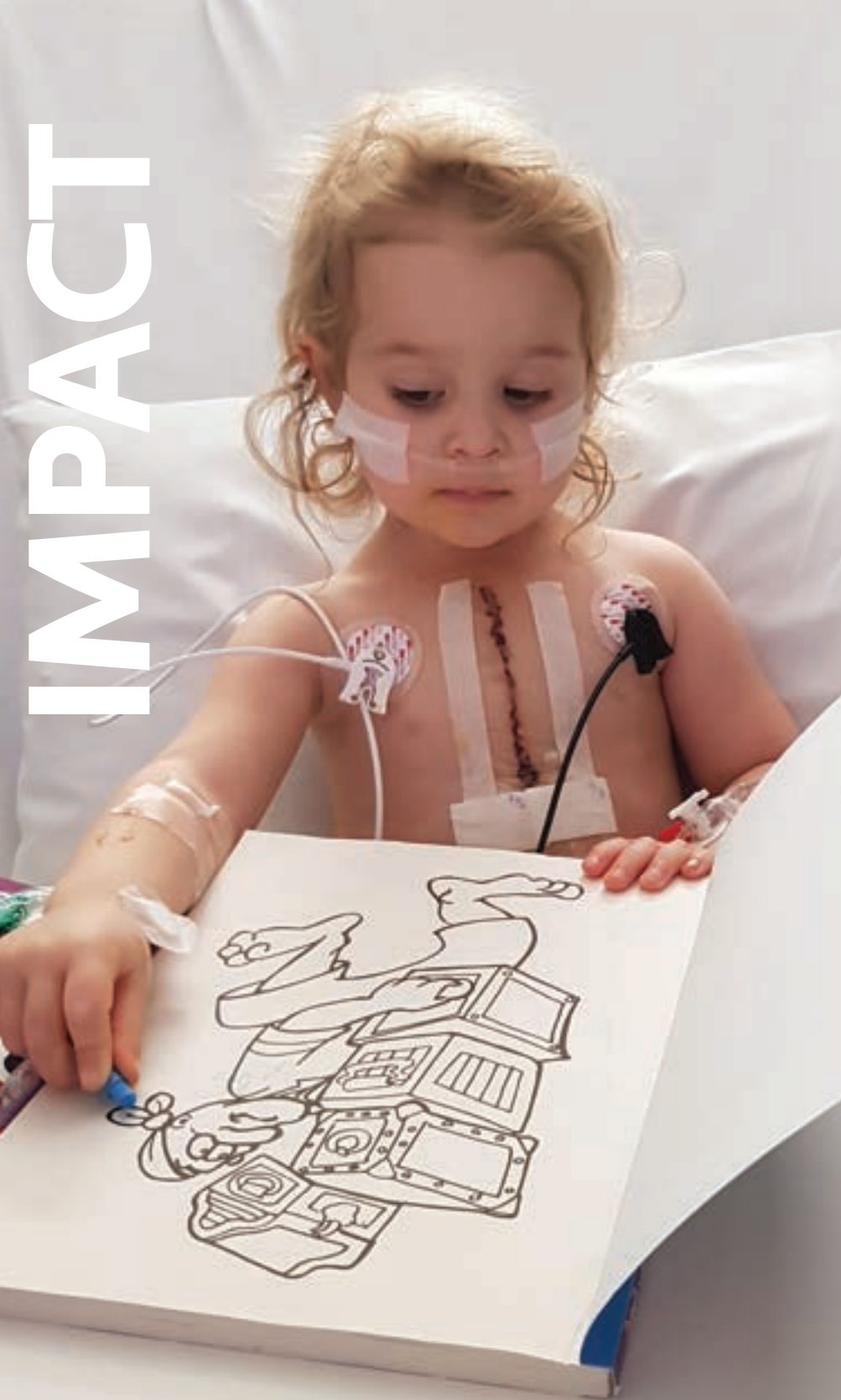
1,412  
Families provided with support

1,333  
Carers provided support

584  
Financial support servcies provided to families

Financial support servcies provided to families

In FY23, 20 committed support staff were located in Children’s Hospitals and offices in Adelaide, Brisbane, Darwin, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney providing support free of charge. We work in partnership with Hospitals as visiting non-government organisations.



The key programs we have piloted are now being incorporated into our service model include programs such as Early Childhood Intervention support services, Mental Health programs (aimed at both teens and adults) and Indigenous care (which includes regional clinics to support the treatment of Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD)).

ECI	Early Childhood Intervention Program- Reducing the barriers to successful start to school for children who have had open heart surgery under the age of one Education   Referrall   Advocacy
Teen/Young Adult (Action Plan)	Supporting an improved Model of Transitional Care within Paediatric and Adult Cardiac Centres through the development of a tailored Congenital Heart Disease Transition Support Program Teen Camps- Provide families impacted by CHD with a fun and supportive peer environment to connect with other families and gain education on coping with CHD
Mental Health Program	Psychology services in whole of family unit therapy and chronic illness mental health management
Rural and Regional Indigenous Support	Specialist support staff to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families impacted by CHD
'Journey' Support	Provides a comprehensive service across the user journey - diagnosis, surgery, preschool, primary, teen and young adult, adult, palliative care, through aligned health resources or through partnership



Your support enables HeartKids to provide help to these individuals and their families for both their current and future needs.

It also helps us ease the cost-of-living burden and stress currently facing many of our families, assisting them to practically manage the impact of CHD through financial support, shopping vouchers, travel and accommodation assistance.

How your donations help our HeartKids, teenagers and adults living with the challenges of congenital heart disease every day.



RESEARCH

- \$90** Supports scientists in identifying the underlying genetic cause of Inherited Arrhythmia Syndromes in Early Childhood
- \$280** Helps fund research into Cord Blood Cell Therapy for babies with Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome
- \$480** Helps scientists understand and work toward better treatments for Congenital Heart Disease
- \$1400** Helps researchers pinpoint the cause of Congenital Heart Disease in babies to better understand how to treat and cure them



IN HOSPITAL SUPPORT

- \$5** Provides a Heart Bead starter pack to a child with heart disease
- \$10** Provides an in hospital meal to a parent staying in-hospital with their unwell child
- \$25** Provides a food voucher for families rushed to hospital in an emergency
- \$50** Helps with essential groceries for families in hospital
- \$60** Provides an emergency care bag with all the essentials for families in hospital
- \$100** Provides families with practical items eg. Care bags and Coles cards/food vouchers to support them during hospital stays



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- \$10** Enables our support team to provide a practical and emotional crutch to families in their time of need
- \$100** Provides ongoing support once families return home
- \$250** Provides families with financial assistance during times of hardship due to extended hospital stays
- \$500** Provides financial assistance for bereavement when families are at their most vulnerable





## FUNDRAISING AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Community fundraising and events are a vital way that we raise funds and awareness to provide support programs across Australia. There have been many face-to-face events and community fundraising activities conducted within and on behalf of the CHD community including hospital and in-community morning teas and lunches, trivia nights, teen day outs, strike bowling, zip-lining, sausage sizzles, car rallies, and many more activities with many more planned in the coming year. There are four major fundraising and awareness campaigns across the year and many localised fundraising and support events held across the States and Territories.

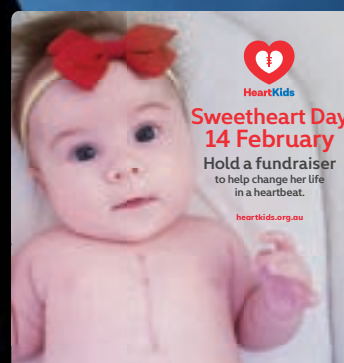
## NATIONAL CAMPAIGNS



Wed 14 February 2023

Sweetheart Day (also International Congenital Heart Defect Day) raises awareness for CHD and valuable funds for HeartKids. The community is asked to be part of our Sweetheart Giving Day and raise valuable funds.

[sweetheartday.org.au/splash-page/1](https://sweetheartday.org.au/splash-page/1)



Saturday 13 May 2023

Over 800 people attended this year's ball in Perth to raise much needed funds for HeartKids families.



Thursday 15 June 2023

Hero for HeartKids Day asks corporates, businesses, schools and the broader public to dress up as superheroes to raise awareness for CHD and raise money for HeartKids. A fun staff and customer engagement initiative.

[hero4heartkids.org.au/](https://hero4heartkids.org.au/)



Sunday 15 October 2022

Two Feet & a Heartbeat is a charity walk for HeartKids families and the broader community to pay tribute to their heart kids and have a moment of reflection for our heart angels.

It is held in the form of a 4km walk in multiple locations across Australia. This is a great staff engagement event including volunteering opportunities on the day.

[twofeetheartbeat.org.au/events](https://twofeetheartbeat.org.au/events)







Leon

## ROCHE HELPING HEARTKIDS AND THEIR FAMILIES WITH THEIR ANNUAL DONATION OF COAGUCHEK INRRANGE METERS AND TEST STRIPS

Every year for the past two decades, Roche Diagnostics Australia has been supporting HeartKids through the donation of hundreds of CoaguChek INRange meters and a supply of test strips. Donations like these, from the corporate community, help ease the cost-of-living burden and stress for heart kids' families and allows them to manage their CHD practically, anytime, and anywhere they need.

'Roche Diagnostics Australia is delighted to be working with HeartKids again this year, continuing our support of the great work that HeartKids is doing for the community and helping provide better outcomes for families impacted by congenital or childhood-acquired heart disease', says Allison Rossiter, Managing Director of Roche Diagnostics Australia.

For parents of newborns or infants impacted by childhood or congenital heart disease, it can be a daunting prospect that their child may require blood thinning medication, normally used by the elderly, to give them the best chance at a safe and active childhood.

The medication helps to keep their blood flowing preventing them from clotting or bleeding, and this is monitored by testing the INR levels of the blood. INR levels must be kept steady so that when children fall or have accidents, as they often do, their cuts and bruises can heal.

To carefully monitor their INR and remain in therapeutic range testing can involve weekly visits to a pathology collection center for an invasive blood draw. It can be very difficult for parents and children to have to visit a collection center and have blood tests for their INR levels, as often as every single day. For these families, there is a far less evasive test available through a simple finger prick.

South Australian-based heart mum shares her appreciation for the difference that Roche INRange machines make for heart families. 'I need to test my son's blood every day. He has had too many visits to hospitals and clinics for a little one. It's a traumatic experience for both of us. The CoaguChek device means we do the blood test quickly, with no fuss. My son chooses a Band-Aid with his favorite character on it before the test and we have a cuddle after. It saves hours of travel, pathology costs, and reduces his anxiety around medical procedures. Testing at home means smiles, not tears.'

'Roche Diagnostics Australia is pleased to support some of these heart kids and their families again this year by donating more hand-held devices and test strips. The CoaguChek INRange is a finger prick test that can monitor a person's INR level from the comfort of their home', says Allison.

'COVID-19 has been tough on Australians and now the cost-of-living increases are putting additional pressure on heart kids' families', says Lesley Jordan, HeartKids CEO. 'We are grateful to Roche Diagnostics Australia for their continued support, reducing the stress and hassle experienced by heart kids and their families, making it easier to manage their condition from the comfort of their own homes.'

The HeartKids / Roche Diagnostics Australia collaboration, is partnership in action, delivering genuine support where most needed. If you would like to know more about this support service, contact 1800 432 785 to speak to your local support coordinator.



Allison Rossiter, Managing Director of Roche Diagnostics Australia (l) and Lesley Jordan, CEO of HeartKids (r)





## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING

This year we continued to deliver the National Strategic Action Plan for Childhood Heart Disease – Beyond the Heart: Transforming Care (the Action Plan). The Action Plan team have been able to:

1. develop the first draft of Australian standards and models of care for CHD;
2. deliver new resources and information to better meet the needs of our community;
3. develop education modules for healthcare professionals;
4. pilot an App to help young adults transition into adult care;
5. streamline the HeartKids Helpline providing more ways to connect with HeartKids.

We are grateful for the funding provided by the Commonwealth Department of Health that made these developments possible.

The Standards acknowledge that a significant proportion of children with complex CoHD require specialised rehabilitative services, supportive therapies, and educational supports into adulthood.

The National Strategic Action Plan for Childhood Heart Disease identifies a need to deliver awareness and education for non-health professionals, through a community-based awareness campaign to improve understanding of CHD and its impact across the whole lifespan.

The campaign will focus on the impact on families in seeking treatment and the need for lifelong care, develop resources and policy guidance for key non-health institutions (e.g. schools and education settings) to create supportive community environments for people with CHD.

Additionally, the Action Plan will deliver awareness and education support to professionals working outside the healthcare system, including community environments where people live, learn, work and play, e.g. Aboriginal community-controlled organisations, early childhood educators and teachers, sports coaches and home and community care workers.

## STATE GOVERNMENT FUNDING

In 2022, HeartKids received funding from the South Australian Government and grant funding in Western Australia to employ accredited mental health professionals. These professionals deliver counselling and support services to HeartKids families in those states, providing empathy and assistance in reducing the trauma and stress associated with the on-going mental and physical health impacts of both living with a child with congenital heart disease or losing a child to CHD.

Funding also enables the development of a suite of resources to bolster mental health and wellness for children with CHD and their families.

A roll-out of comprehensive resources to regional communities will expand HeartKids' reach and engagement levels with these communities. Services or information that were difficult to access will be made more available. When engaging with regional HeartKids families, our Support Coordinators will be able to direct these families to the newly available resources and provide greater care and support as a result.

## FOUNDATION AND TRUSTS

HeartKids has grown stronger financially thanks to the generosity of our community and a number of private and public grants, including Kinghorn Foundation.

### The Kinghorn Foundation

The Kinghorn Foundation has been a major supporter of HeartKids since 2017.

Their support has allowed us to deliver vital programs such as the CHD Registry, the Fontan Registry, and our Grants in Aid research.

We are very grateful for the continued support of the Kinghorn Foundation and the ongoing work at HeartKids that this long-term partnership allows.



The Stan Perron Foundation's generous contribution has allowed HeartKids to establish a Mental Health Support Program in WA with the employment of a dedicated permanent part-time Psychologist specialising in whole of family unit therapy and chronic illness mental health management.

**The funding of the program will provide a new service to South Australia and Western Australia HeartKids families with:**

- Targeted mental health program modules.
- The development of a Peer Mentor program and materials, to seed and grow the programs across South Australia and Western Australia with primary focus on regional and remote communities, to reduce social isolation and provide mental health support.
- The development of a robust CHD Mental Health referral network with regional and remote community groups to assist in state-wide service delivery.
- The development of a specialist one-to-one counselling service for families with high mental health requirements and specialist care needs.
- The creation of face-to-face, virtual and tele options for specialist counselling.
- Training of key staff and volunteers on program delivery, referral processes and counselling skills to support state-wide service delivery.

**Families in South Australia and Western Australia impacted by CHD experience reduced isolation and increased resilience, as a result of this Mental Health program. Through these programs, our service will provide the following outcomes:**

- Families are given access to specialised CHD mental health support.
- Reduced inequity of access to mental health services in rural and remote areas.
- Reduced inequity of access to mental health services due to financial circumstances.
- Reduced demand for mental health services, particularly in regional communities.





Audrey

## REGIONAL CARE THANKS TO TELETHON

In June 2023 with thanks to Telethon funding I travelled to Geraldton to host two support events for local heart kid and heart angel families. One event was at a local café and allowed families to drop-in for a coffee and a chat. They were able to meet myself and our local volunteer, talk through how things were going with them and their heartkid, take home printed resources and meet other families in their area.

Our second event was a parents only dinner with guest speaker, Dr Stephen Shipton, Head of Cardiology at Perth Children's Hospital, a cardiac nurse, and cardiac sonographer. Dr Shipton spoke to the parents about recent and upcoming changes in cardiac surgery thanks to new technology. It was fascinating to hear all the ways new technology is helping surgeons prepare for operations and understand the complexities of the heart by having a 3D model printed from scans of the very child's heart they were going to be operating on.

Whilst all the parents were grateful to hear Dr Shipton speak and have the chance to sit down for dinner with him, the moment that was truly special was shared by a mum of a heart angel. Whilst at Ronald McDonald House her daughter took a turn for the worse, so she placed her in the pram and ran her back over the road to the hospital. The first person she saw was one of the cardiac nurses who could see the situation and rushed her through emergency where treatment began. Unfortunately, her daughter passed away in emergency. The cardiologist who was on call that day was Dr Shipton. He held the mum after having to break the devastating news to her. That was over 10 years ago.

When walking into the dinner that night, Dr Shipton recognized the mum and gave her a giant hug. The mum later told me that that hug brought her right back to the moment her daughter had passed. But, not only was Dr Shipton there that day, the cardiac nurse who was at the dinner was the same nurse that raced her through to emergency. They shared their memories of the child (who was in hospital for some time before passing) over dinner. The mum was so grateful to HeartKids for their ongoing care of their bereaved family and for the opportunity to reconnect with Dr Shipton and his nurse as it has helped her healing journey. After returning to Perth, Dr Shipton found the child's old scans and made a 3D model of her heart for her mum which she now has as a very cherished memento of her daughter.

None of this would have been possible without funding from Telethon. Further regional visits linking in with Dr Shipton and his team are planned with Albany in October 2023.



Dr Shipton (l) and Ariana Potts (second from right)

Author: Ariana Potts, Regional Family Support Coordinator, HeartKids WA.







Anakin

# ADVOCACY



HeartKids has made great progress in advocacy. Our advocacy work achieved federal and state government commitment to fund Australia's first ever National CHD Action Plan, and state government funding to develop new service programs for the CHD community.

We have funded and facilitated a ground-breaking initiative, the National CHD Survey and CHD Registry. The data collected in the survey will help understand the true impact and burden of disease across Australia. The CHD Registry will improve the understanding of treatment outcomes, ultimately improving quality of life and survival rates.

HeartKids aims to reach and support the 80,000 registered individuals in the CHD community in Australia through a growing number of resources:







Emily

HeartKids supported considerable research into the ways in which the diagnosis and treatment of CHD in children affects the mental health of parents, siblings and other family members. The availability of mental health support services through the health care system is limited and stretched beyond capacity. In regional areas, mental health services are even more in demand. Distance and population density limit the provision of these services in these areas.

HeartKids is also conscious that the majority of our services are provided in and around children's hospitals located within capital cities. The regional families we support, through annual surveys, feel more isolated from the HeartKids community of families; a critical component of our support is engendering a sense of community amongst our families. Feeling part of a wider group with similar experiences is important in the recovery of children and their families, improving mental health and resilience for life, and driving inclusivity.

For HeartKids to achieve our mission of supporting all people affected by childhood heart disease, expansion of regional support is imperative in creating a more inclusive service offering, given the needs of this cohort are not met by other care services.

HeartKids research is on-going with the research objectives focused on

- preventing neurodevelopmental and mental health complications,
- understanding the impact of prenatal and postnatal factors affecting the health of children born with CHD and their families; and
- exploring the role of exercise and increased activity in reducing the impact of CHD.

Current research projects being supported include the CHAANZ Registry: An Australian Study of the Outcomes and Burden of Congenital Heart Disease. This project supports the further development and implementation of the CHAANZ Registry to identify outcomes and burden of disease.

HeartKids commitment to this program of work is demonstrated by:

- cash support of \$20,000 in FY23 and
- in-kind support, comprising active involvement in project design and implementation and measurement of outcomes, providing consumer input, assisting in raising awareness for the study recruitment and assisting with dissemination of the results to registry participants and the HeartKids community.

### Kiwanis 'Better Tomorrows' case study

The HeartKids Grants In Aid Program funds an array of projects put forward by eminent experts in various fields. These submissions cover a broad base of elements which make up the complex world of not only Childhood Heart Disease directly, but also many of the subsequent issues (Neurological, Physical and Emotional) that emanate from CHD.

One such program funded directly with the assistance of Kiwanis Australia District looked at the impact of using Nitric Oxide in open heart surgeries. This research also uncovered the neurological impact and how that connects the developmental elements of children's early learning skills.

After many discussions with parents about their child's learning development these evidence-based discussions formed the bases of a new program called Better Tomorrows.

Piloted in FY23, its early findings are being collated to support the program rollout. The program would not have been conceived, designed or delivered in Pilot form if not for the Kiwanis funding received to support Grants In Aid and the pathway opportunities that they identified, through its entire evolution.

This is an example of the real and extremely valuable outcomes derived from the Partnership between Kiwanis and HeartKids and how it directly impacts children.

Better Tomorrows continues to be piloted with progressive reviews and refinement in South Australia in FY23, run by an Occupational Therapist, with the intention of expanding pilots in Victoria and elsewhere in FY24.

**This entire process is a direct reflection of, and a result of, the Kiwanis Australia District Grants In Aid contribution and will evolve into having benefits and impact significantly beyond the initial objectives and well into the future.**



**Kiwanis**



Angela (HeartKids Chair for Kiwanis Board) (r) presenting the \$25,000 Grants-in-Aid cheque to HK National Community Engagement Manager, Tracy Stanley (l) at the 2023 Geelong District Convention





HeartKids has grown stronger financially thanks to the generosity of our community and corporate supporters like Supercheap Auto, Drakes, Roche, Angel Flight, Telethon 7 and People's Choice Credit Union. We couldn't do what we do without the unwavering support of our corporate and community partners, Trusts and Foundations, major and regular donors as well as the amazing support from our community.



### Angel Flight, keeping families together



Families impacted by childhood onset heart disease, in regional communities, deal with the triple impacts of heart disease, insurmountable travel costs, and daunting distances to receive specialist medical treatment.

Angel Flight is a national volunteer-based charity like no other. Angel Flight Australia has been helping rural families in need for 20 years with free flights and drives to metro areas for medical treatment.

Angel Flight pilot and Chair of the Board, Owen Crees understands the struggles faced by rural families. As a volunteer pilot for the past 19 years, he has experienced the joy of helping families stay connected.

"Angel Flight turns the six-hour drive from Roxby Downs to Adelaide into a one-hour flight", says Mel, mum of heart kid George. "George loves traveling in 'his own plane'. The pilots make him feel special and turn anxiety about visiting his cardiologist into a day of adventure. We can be home again the same day, keeping our family together."

Angel Flight has helped other heart parents during their darkest hours. They have assisted families in transporting babies and children who have lost their battles with heart disease back home to regional communities, from major city hospitals. These children are treated with the greatest respect and care, delivered personally by the Angel Flight pilots to waiting parents. "No parent ever expects to organise their child's funeral. Working in partnership with HeartKids, Angel Flight reduces the burden and confusion around the transport of loved ones, reuniting families, and bringing dignity to a situation shrouded in grief," says Lesley Jordan, HeartKids CEO.

To learn more about how Angel Flight can assist, call HeartKids 1800 432 785. For more information: [angelflight.org.au](http://angelflight.org.au)   [@angelflightaustralia](https://www.instagram.com/angelflightaustralia)



Through our national partnership with Supercheap Auto, we have been able to extend the access to our support services and programs across Australia. Our ongoing partnership with Supercheap Auto allows us to plan for the future and provide certainty in the support we offer.

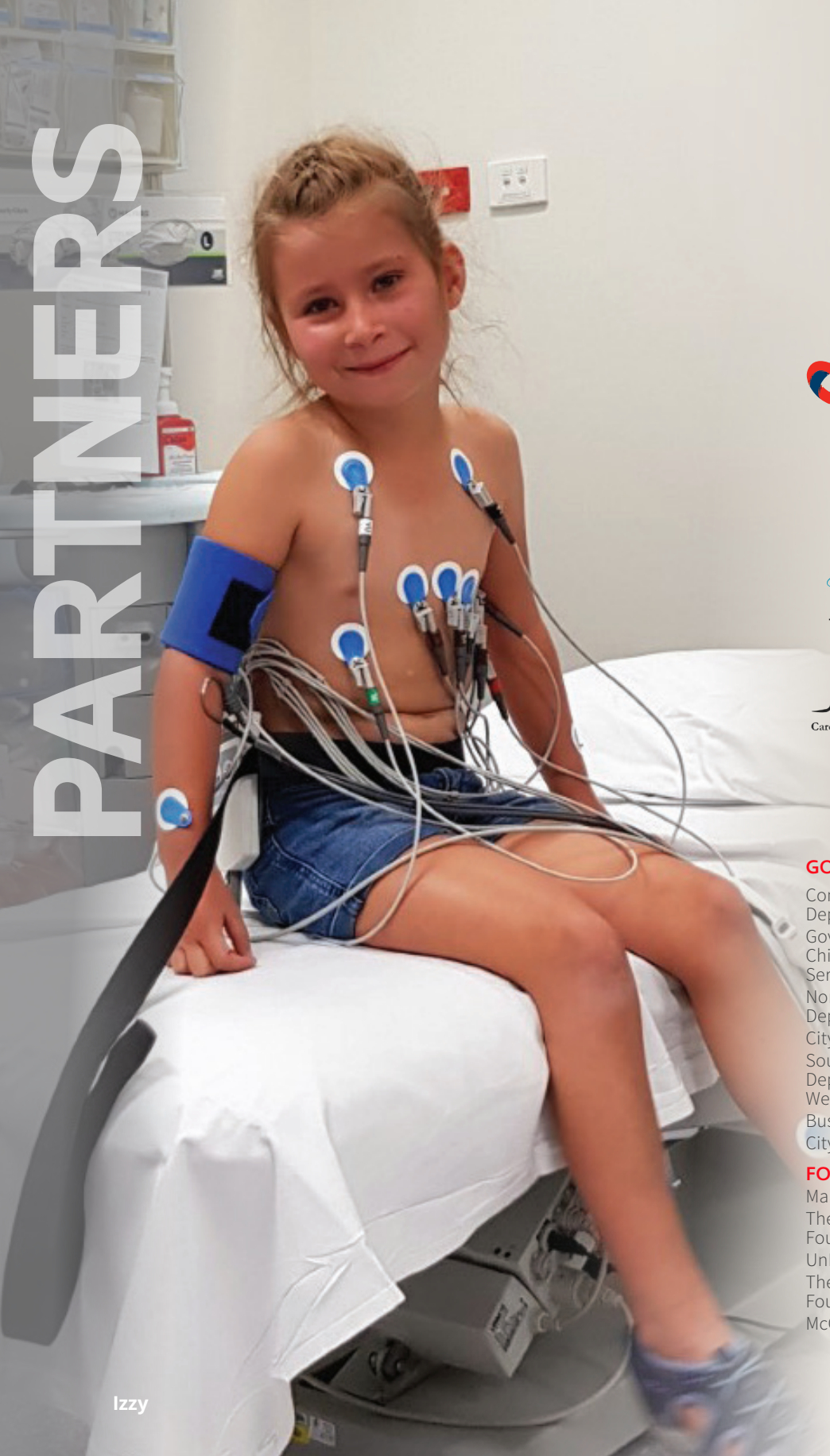
In June 2023, Supercheap Auto helped raise \$54,893.00 for our national Hero for HeartKids campaign.

These funds will directly support heart kids, teenagers and adults who live with the challenges of congenital heart disease.

These funds ensure we can continue to support families through in-hospital support initiatives, education programs and family financial assistance when they need it most. [supercheapauto.com.au/charity](http://supercheapauto.com.au/charity)







## HEALTH ALLIANCE PARTNERS



### GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Commonwealth  
Department of Health  
Government of Western Australia:  
Child and Adolescent Health  
Service  
Northern Territory  
Department of Health  
City of Melbourne  
South Australian Government  
Department of Health and  
Wellbeing  
Business Victoria  
City of Brisbane

### FOUNDATIONS & TRUSTS

Marian & EH Flack Trust  
The James and Jutta Lauf  
Foundation  
UnLtd Foundation  
The Lin Huddleston Charitable  
Foundation  
McCusker Charitable Foundation



The Lyone Foundation  
Medtronic Foundation  
Ian Potter Foundation  
CAF America  
Keith Irwin Memorial Foundation  
Edward C Dunn Foundation  
ANDMOR Foundation  
GoodCompany Foundation  
Chain Reaction Challenge  
Foundation  
Dimmick Charitable Trust

### BEQUEST

The estate of the late  
Elizabeth Mihic

### MAJOR SUPPORTERS & GIFTS IN MEMORY (\$5000+)

Magistrates Court of VIC  
Variety SA  
GIVE Community  
Grimbos Building Surveyors

## CORPORATE & PRINCIPAL PARTNERS

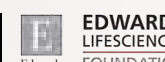


The  
Kinghorn  
Foundation



A Grade Plumbing and Gas  
Corvette Club of SA  
Darwin Kitchens & Cabinets  
Good to Give  
Lyndale Football & Netball Club  
Northern Beaches Social Riders  
Pine Rivers Memorial Bowls Club  
Riding Free Brothers  
Motorcycle Club  
Southern District Motorsports  
Association Inc.  
Trees Adventure Group  
Rallou Pty Ltd  
Castle Hill RSL Group  
Archibald Household  
Berger Household  
Bignell Household  
Buchanan Household  
Iliopoulos Household  
Dixon Household  
Edwards Household

## MAJOR PARTNERS



Nguyen Household  
Pitt Household  
Radeski Household  
Sharman Household  
Wagg Household  
Merrell Davis OAM Household  
Williams Household  
Yager Household

### MEDIA/COMMUNICATION PARTNERS

CocoGun  
Initiative Media  
Ardent Communications  
Wunderman Thompson  
Kantar  
LightBulb Design  
oOh! Media  
Seven Network  
WriteAway  
UnLtd





Joshua



The HeartKids Ambassador program continually helps raise awareness of HeartKids to both the existing CHD community and the wider Australian society. As public identities or local heroes, we are grateful for the work of our Ambassadors to help us raise awareness of HeartKids, support our funding, and progress our mission to support those impacted by CHD. Understanding that Ambassadors lead busy lives, we thank all of our Ambassadors for their support in different ways, and how they contribute.

## NATIONAL AMBASSADORS

Jaidyn Stephenson  
Hayley Raso  
Kennedy Cherrington  
Dave Strassman  
Adam Densten  
Gyton Grantley  
Sarah Blackmore  
Simon Reeve  
Ross Wallman

## SUPPORTING AMBASSADORS

Mark O'Shea  
Con Dede  
Emmy Kubainski  
Andrew Gaff  
Courtney Burfoot  
Jessica Molloy  
Linda Dix  
Kay Reynolds  
Sebastian Clissold  
Catie Eccleston  
Jessica Johns  
Samuel Stolberg  
Levi Schulkins  
Marjorie Doyle  
Caitlin Cranitch  
Melody Burton  
Leon Mizzi  
Jaden Dixon  
Kate Longmire





# THANK YOU

Tahlia-Jade

To access the FY2023 HeartKids Limited financial report, please [click here](#) or go to the link on the ACNC website.

We extend our sincerest thanks to all those who have contributed their time and resources to support our organisation and help us achieve our purpose and goals this year.

We look forward to working with Australian Federal, State and Territory Governments, clinicians, researchers, corporate partners, heart kids, heart teens and adults, heart angel families and the broader CHD community as we strive to make a real and lasting impact for everyone in the Congenital Heart Disease (CHD) community.



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