

HELPING

Children and Young People in Need.



Australian Children's Charities
WORKING TOGETHER

Introduction



Nothing can be more important in Australian society than the health and welfare of our children. They represent our future and there is ample evidence that appropriate investment in their health and welfare pays unparalleled dividends over many decades in terms of health, social and economic outcomes.

A commitment to that future requires strong government support in partnership with the generosity of the community. While many of our specialist children's hospitals and paediatric units have specific fund raising bodies and Foundations, the partnership for the wellbeing of children extends beyond that.

The organisations constituting the Australian Children's Charities participate in important and special ways as part of a network of care and support for children and their families. Their individual contributions and assistance of child health professionals and institutions allow a comprehensive, "total care" approach for children in need.

This group exemplifies the collaborative spirit and dedication of organisations that, despite their separate roles and specific goals, demonstrate a shared vision for a society that values our children above all else.

LES WHITE

Past President 1998 – 2004

Children's Hospitals Australasia

Australian Children's Charities represent a group of national children's charities dedicated to directly helping seriously ill, disabled or disadvantaged children who are in need of assistance around Australia.

This brochure provides a brief overview of the assistance available to families from our collective charities in the hope of informing and reaching all families who need our help.

**Comprising seven national leading,
independent charities, the group includes;**

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OTHER RELEVANT STATE BASED CHARITIES

VICTORIA

Very Special Kids

www.vsk.org.au

Challenge

www.challenge.org.au

ACT

EdenMonaro

RSL Memorial Arace

QUEANBEYAN ACT 2620

QUEENSLAND

Childhood Cancer Support

www.clcs.org.au

Kids Help Line

www.kidshelp.com.au

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Cancer Care Centre Inc

www.cancercare.asn.au

Childhood Cancer Association

www.childhoodcancer.asn.au

NATIONAL

Leukemia Foundation

www.leukemia.com

Sids and Kids

www.sidsandkids.org

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For further information about this brochure or to have your charity listed in our "contact" page please contact Leanne Warner at Camp Quality leanne.warner@campquality.org.au





OUR COMMITMENT

Camp Quality is committed to bringing hope and happiness to every child living with cancer (up to 18 years of age), their families and communities through ongoing quality recreational, educational and financial support programs. We passionately believe in the power of fun to help children and their families overcome the challenges that cancer brings. That's why you'll find that fun flows through absolutely everything we do, from our programs to our entire philosophy.

ABOUT US

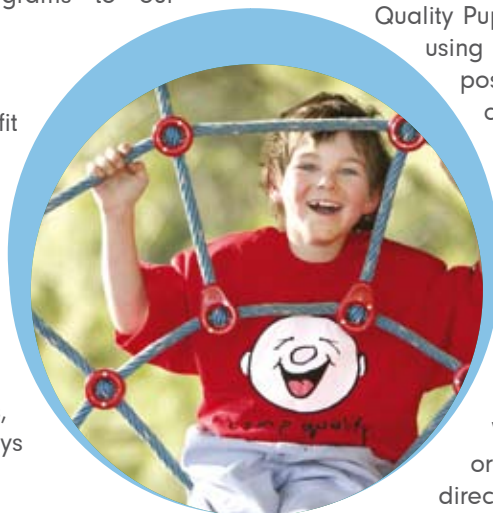
Camp Quality is a non-profit organisation that was established in Sydney in 1983. We are a national charity with offices in every state and territory, both regional and metro centres. Our year round recreational, educational and financial support programs provide fun therapy to children living with cancer and their families, to help them get through the bad days and celebrate the good ones.

OUR PROGRAMS

Camping and recreational programs for our children, their siblings and the whole family are unique and provide a wonderful opportunity for a child living with cancer to put their illness aside and just be a child again. We create a positive environment that quite often gives them that little spark, and the courage to continue on through treatment or celebrate getting through it. These programs provide enjoyment, and a variety of activities that benefits everyone involved.

These programs are also an opportunity for a much needed break for families and help them function normally again by bringing back the fun times they had before their child's illness.

All volunteers who support these programs are trained and have undergone Police checks and private screening. In addition to the camps, we also support the Children's hospitals, as has been the case with our financial support to build the Children's Cancer Centre in Victoria as well as other work with oncology wards throughout Australia. Another unique and inspiring part of Camp Quality's program includes over 250,000 children receiving the Camp Quality experience through the McDonald's Camp Quality Puppets. This is an educational program using life size puppets to deliver a fun and positive message to primary school children throughout Australia about supporting children living with cancer. Camp Quality has also developed a new puppet program which revolves around a state of the art radio controlled puppet called "Giggle" who will entertain hospitalised children for hours.



EMERGENCY SUPPORT

We also provide financial support or emergency funding to families to directly assist in the payment of medical, general household bills, transport or accommodation costs.

HAVING FUN

Amongst all of the treatment available to children living with cancer today, we believe that fun is one of the most important because, as we like to say at Camp Quality, laughter is the best medicine.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CALL

1300 66 2267 or visit

www.campquality.org.au





CANTEEN IS THE AUSTRALIAN ORGANISATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE LIVING WITH CANCER.

WHAT IS CANTEEN?

CanTeen's Mission is to support, develop and empower young people living with cancer. We do this by providing a high quality Australia-wide peer support network of young people living with cancer who share experiences, have fun, offer resources and promote understanding, well-being and leadership. The touchstone of CanTeen is the belief that young people, through meeting and talking with one another, are better able to cope with the uncertainties of a cancer diagnosis.

WHO ARE CANTEEN MEMBERS?

CanTeen's Members are young people aged between 12 and 24, who are cancer patients (called Patient Members), brothers or sisters of cancer patients (called Sibling Members) or young people with parents or primary carers with cancer (called Offspring Members).

SO WHAT DOES CANTEEN DO?

Supporting Members

Division and National Camps - these provide the opportunity for Members to meet others from around the country and establish caring and supportive friendships.

Patient, Sibling and Offspring Weekends - these weekend programs cater specifically for patients, siblings and offspring and are designed around the issues that are commonly faced by each group.

TeenLink - a peer support program which provides newly diagnosed young people and their siblings with the support of a young person who has 'been there, done that'.

Good Grief - a weekend program which raises the issues of grief and loss and provides Members with an opportunity to develop skills which enable them to work through a number of these issues.

Magazines - Division and National magazines, which provide a forum for the Members to express their views and keep in touch.

Educational Workshops & Recreational Activities - the nature of the workshops is to provide skills in a variety of relevant areas that members will find beneficial in life as well as now.

Developing Members

Educational Workshops - are about issues that are identified by the Members, such as fertility, side effects, stress management, grieving, bereavement and relationships.

Discussion Groups - Members are provided with the opportunity to discuss their issues relating to living with cancer in a supportive, peer group setting.

Community Education - is a substantial part of CanTeen's charter to inform the wider community of the issues that are relevant and specific to young people living with cancer.

Empowering Members

Empowerment during the Cancer Journey -

With the support of others, CanTeen Members take back control of their lives.

Member Participation in Management - CanTeen's philosophy is to involve young people in the decision-making process and empower them to take responsibility for their organisation.



TO FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CANTEEN, PLEASE CALL US OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

FREE CALL 1800 226 833
www.canteen.org.au





THERE IS MAGIC IN WISHES... THEY REALLY DO COME TRUE!

The Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Australia grants children and young people with life threatening illnesses their cherished wish, providing wonderful magic memories.

OUR HISTORY

Make-A-Wish was founded in the United States in 1980 after a young child, Chris Grecius asked his mother if he could become a highway patrolman. Just before Chris passed away, he asked his mother whether she could make the wonderful wishes of other sick children come true, and the Make-A-Wish Foundation was born.

After 25 years Make-A-Wish has granted tens of thousands of wishes to children with life threatening illnesses all over the world. The Make-A-Wish Foundation of Australia was established in 1985 and has granted over 4000 wishes in that time. During 2005, our 20th Anniversary year, we aim to grant over 600 wishes. For every wish that is approved by a child's doctor, a wish comes true, regardless of time.



WONDERFUL WISHES

The choice of a wish is entirely up to the child. 'Wish children' are between the ages of 4 and 18 years and live with life threatening illnesses. Doctors, health professionals and parents are welcome to apply to the Foundation for a wish. A volunteer from the local Make-A-Wish branch will then visit eligible children and ask them to reach into their imaginations to think of their one cherished wish. To spark their imagination, they are told to think of anything that begins:

I wish to be...I wish to go...I wish to meet...I wish to have...

Children have amazing imaginations, and recent wishes from Australian children have ranged from "I wish to have a chestnut pony", "I wish to meet the creators of The Simpsons" to "I wish to go to the Gold Coast Theme Parks" and "I wish to be an Army Officer". *Each of these wishes has allowed the child to forget their illness for a little while and to experience joy and excitement that has eluded them due to hospital treatment or long periods of confinement.*

Families are very important to the wish process and are encouraged to be involved as much as possible. Often the family of a wish child is dealing with disruption to routines and emotional distress, and the wish is a great opportunity to step outside and enjoy the pure joy that a wish creates. Immediate family also take part in travel wishes and this can make for some special memories through moving family reunions.

OUR SUPPORTERS

With over 900 dedicated volunteers, the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Australia has a strong support base. Volunteers are involved in the granting of a wish, fundraising and awareness campaigns and are supported by staff at the National and State Offices throughout Australia.

Many of the Foundation's wishes would not be achieved without the generous assistance of the business sector. Similarly Australian celebrities, musicians, artists and community leaders often generously donate their time to bring the magical wishes of children to fruition.

MAKE-A-WISH FOUNDATION® OF AUSTRALIA
383 SWAN STREET RICHMOND VIC 3121
PO BOX 5006, BURNLEY VIC 3121
TOLL FREE 1800 032 260 FAX: (03) 9426 0799
www.makeawish.org.au



Redkite is dedicated to providing assistance to families like yours facing childhood cancer. Having helped many families for over 22 years, we understand the emotional and financial difficulties you may be going through, and we offer a range of services to help you at all stages of your cancer journey.

Redkite is the new name for the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children in Australia and was established in 1983 in memory of the late Sir Malcolm Sargent. Today, Redkite continues Sir Malcolm's commitment to helping children and also reflects his passion for music.

The services offered by Redkite:

PROFESSIONAL COUNSELLING/ SOCIAL WORK SUPPORT

At Redkite, we recognise that cancer takes an emotional toll on the entire family. Social workers, based in oncology units at the Children's Hospitals, provide emotional and practical support for the whole family.

MUSIC THERAPY

Music Therapy is provided by qualified, professional music therapists. Listening to music, song writing, playing and recording music and lullabies for younger children, help to relieve pain and lift children's spirits through creative expression.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Financial pressures can place an added burden on families throughout the treatment period. We offer direct and immediate financial assistance to help you along the way.

Examples of expenses covered include food, electricity, telephone, rent, travel expenses, wigs and rehabilitation aids. To find out more, contact your hospital-based social worker.

FAMILY SUPPORT GROUPS

Often, the people who best understand how you feel are parents who are going through similar experiences. A range of family support group meetings are available for families, so you can share these feelings and experiences with other parents and support one another along the journey.

FAMILY DAYS

Redkite family days are held throughout the year so the entire family can spend special time together, away from treatment and hospital visits. You can be added to the Family Opportunity mailing list by contacting the Redkite office in your state.

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

Redkite recognises that going back to school after prolonged periods of treatment is never easy. Children can feel left behind and socially isolated. Tutoring grants are available to enable them to catch up with their peers and give them the confidence and the opportunity to succeed.

Please note, not all services are currently available in every state.

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT REDKITE, PLEASE VISIT

www.redkite.org.au

**CONTACT YOUR SOCIAL WORKER
OR PHONE OUR NATIONAL OFFICE ON
1800 334 771**





Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) supports Ronald McDonald Houses throughout Australia and other programs that directly help seriously ill children live happier, healthier lives. RMHC Australia is part of a global RMHC charity which provides programs in over 46 countries.

RONALD McDONALD HOUSE

The cornerstone program of RMHC is Ronald McDonald House. Ronald McDonald Houses are attached to major women's and children's hospitals throughout Australia. Since 1981, Ronald McDonald Houses throughout Australia have provided a home-away-from-home for thousands of families who have a seriously ill child being treated in hospital.

Ronald McDonald Houses provide short or long stay, affordable accommodation, along with the support of experienced House Managers, Volunteers and other families in a similar situation. The Houses are primarily for families having to travel long distances to receive treatment for their child, although the Houses will attempt to accommodate any family needing accommodation whilst their child is in hospital.

RONALD McDONALD LEARNING PROGRAM

The Ronald McDonald Learning Program is a pioneer within RMHC worldwide and also the leading program of its kind in Australia. Children who have experienced prolonged hospitalisation and treatment often fall behind in their education. The Ronald McDonald Learning Program provides an individual education program to help children catch up with their peers and supports their return to school.

RONALD McDONALD CORD BLOOD BANKS

The RMHC Cord Blood Banks of Australia collect and store precious umbilical blood cells - vital in the treatment of childhood leukemia. Umbilical cord blood contains substantial amounts of stem cells usually only found in bone marrow. Anyone interested in donating a cord or accessing a cord blood supply for the treatment of their child should consult their doctor.

RONALD McDONALD FAMILY ROOMS

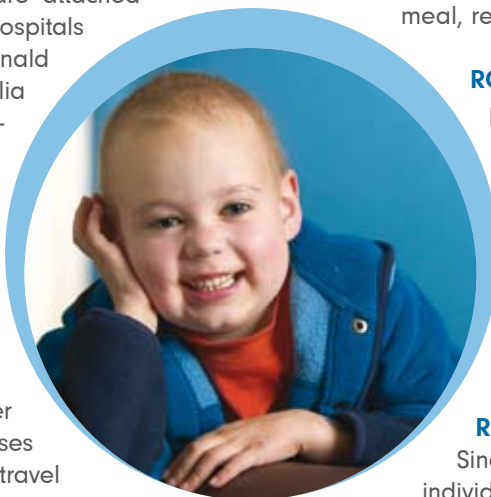
are a comfortable retreat for parents and families of children having day treatment at a hospital, and for families with children undergoing longer-term treatment who live close to the hospital. Located within the hospital, family rooms are a place to have a break, cook a meal, relax and unwind.

RONALD McDONALD BEACH HOUSES

provide free holiday accommodation near the beach, allowing children and their families to take a much needed rest from hospitals - which can often be the best medicine of all. These facilities are available for families with a seriously ill child or those families who have experienced the recent death of a child.

RONALD McDONALD GRANTS

Since 1988, RMHC has made over 15 individual grants to programs ranging from assisting the purchase of special hospital equipment that helps in the treatment of childhood illness, upgrading children's wards in regional hospitals to funding videos and other tools to assist children undergoing medical treatment. McDonald's Australia pays 100 per cent of the general and administration costs of RMHC so that 100 cents in every dollar donated goes directly to RMHC's programs.



**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE
VISIT OUR WEBSITE www.rmhc.org.au OR
CONTACT US ON (02) 9875 6666 / 1300 307642
rmhc@rmhc.org.au**





The Starlight Children's Foundation provides positive distraction and entertainment for seriously, chronically or terminally ill and hospitalised children, to take their mind off the pain, stress & isolation caused by their illness and treatment. Starlight provides an opportunity for them to simply be kids, have fun and connect with other children. Starlight does this through entertainment programs within and outside the hospital environment.

STARLIGHT EXPRESS ROOMS

Our Starlight Express Rooms are high-tech interactive entertainment rooms in major paediatric hospitals with [Captain Starlight](#) as the catalyst for fun. These rooms provide a haven for children to forget about their illness.

Starlight Express Rooms are located at:

- *The Children's Hospital at Westmead*
- *The Sydney Children's Hospital (Randwick),*
- *The John Hunter Hospital (Newcastle),*
- *Princess Margaret Hospital (Perth),*
- *The Mater Children's Hospital (Brisbane),*
- *The Royal Children's Hospital (Melbourne)*
- *Monash Medical Centre (Melbourne)*

STARLIGHT FUN CENTRES

Starlight Fun Centres are mobile entertainment units that wheel right to the bedside of a hospitalised child, bringing hours of fun and laughter, with many pre-loaded games and movies to enjoy.



CAPTAIN STARLIGHT

Captain Starlight is our children's entertainer, and the catalyst for fun, magic and mayhem.

STARLIGHT WISHGRANTING

Our Starlight Wishgranting program helps to make a child's magical wish come true. Children aged between 4 -18 years, who have a critical, chronic or terminal illness, qualify for a Starlight wish. Children are referred to Starlight through their social worker, doctor, nurse or allied health professional.

STARLIGHT EXPRESS VAN

Captain Starlight hits the road in the Starlight Express Van putting smiles on the faces of children in remote, regional and metropolitan hospitals around Australia.

STARLIGHT ESCAPES

Our Starlight Escapes program provides tickets to events, shows and activities, giving children and their families fun times together.

The Starlight Children's Foundation is dedicated to brightening the lives of all seriously ill and hospitalised children and their families around Australia.

**FOR INFORMATION ON STARLIGHT'S PROGRAMS CALL
STARLIGHT CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION AUSTRALIA**

TEL: 1300 727 827
www.starlight.org.au





Variety, The Children's Charity is dedicated to improving the quality of life for sick, disabled and disadvantaged children.

OUR INSPIRATION

It all started in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania USA on Christmas Eve in 1928 when a group of 11 actors found a baby girl abandoned in the Sheridan Theatre. They decided to foster the child and named her Catherine Variety Sheridan.

Her story became an inspiration to help children everywhere and, since those early beginnings, Variety has become an international organisation operating in 14 countries and raising over US\$1 billion to help children in need throughout the world.

OUR PROGRAMS

Variety started in Australia in 1975 and now has separate representation in each state. Variety achieves its objectives by purchasing equipment throughout the year to assist individual children, schools, community organisations and other children's charities.

We are a great supporter of all the children's hospitals across Australia and every hospital throughout the country with children's wards. In the year to December 2004, Variety made grants totalling over \$9.1 million to individual children, hospitals, schools and community groups.

FUND RAISING

Variety raises a large amount of its funds throughout the year by conducting high-profile events including: the Melbourne Cup Lunch, the annual Variety "Bash", a fun-filled motoring adventure through the Australian outback; the Gold Heart Appeal and The Variety Heart Awards. Each state has a unique event calendar, raising funds for Aussie kids in need.

If you wish to access an Appeal form you can look on the website at www.varietynsw.com.au



90% of every dollar donated to Variety goes to helping an Australian child in need.

**CARE FOR KIDS,
THEY ARE OUR FUTURE**

CONTACT VARIETY, THE CHILDREN'S CHARITY IN YOUR STATE:

NEW SOUTH WALES	(02) 9555 1688
VICTORIA	(03) 9348 0633
SOUTH AUSTRALIA	(08) 8293 8744
QUEENSLAND	(07) 3368 3321
TASMANIA	(03) 6223 1886
NORTHERN TERRITORY	(08) 8941 3353
WESTERN AUSTRALIA	(08) 9355 3655



Australian Children's Charities



CanTeen Australia

1800 226 833

www.canteen.org.au



laughter is the best medicine.

Camp Quality

1300 66 22 67

www.campquality.org.au



variety
the children's charity

Variety, The Children's Charity

02 9555 1688

www.varietynsw.com.au



Make-A-Wish Foundation

1800 032 260

www.makeawish.org.au



Redkite

1800 334 771

www.redkite.org.au



Ronald McDonald House Charities

02 9875 6666

www.rmhc.org.au



**Starlight
Children's
Foundation
Australia**

Starlight Children's Foundation

1300 727 827

www.starlight.org.au





Australian Children's Charities
HELPING
Children and Young People in Need.

