



2023 Impact Report

Variety – the Children’s Charity of Western Australia



“

Life is more meaningful having a child with disability. It has taught us to appreciate every moment, embrace life at a slower pace and cherish the beauty in the little things. Bodhi fills our hearts with warmth and inspires us to engage with others with an open heart and mind. ”

- Rhiannon, mum of Bodhi (age 7)



Message from the Chief Barker

I am deeply moved by the remarkable contribution our members and supporters have made to Variety WA over the past year. Thanks to the generous backing of the Western Australian community, we were able to positively impact the lives of 23,557 children who need it most.

This represents almost double the number of children reached compared to the year prior, largely due to our increased work within the disadvantage space. Programs such as Variety EduKids and the Variety Sunshine Packs are delivering critical support for families facing challenges from domestic and family violence to financial hardship - and we only expect the need for this support to grow.

It's been an honour to serve as Chief Barker and stand alongside our diverse and passionate Variety family. I thank my fellow Board members and staff for their support during my time as Chief Barker, and I look forward to remaining part of this incredible organisation as we work to help even more WA kids in need.

Bradley Dean

Chief Barker
(Chairperson)



Message from the CEO

It is with great pride that I present the 2023 Impact Report – my first as CEO of Variety - the Children's Charity of Western Australia.

Whether you choose to volunteer your time, buy a raffle ticket in one of our draws, offer sponsorship, or join one of our events – your generosity means we can continue to give a fair go to Western Australian kids who live with disability, serious illness or disadvantage. I extend my gratitude to each and every one of you.

With your support in 2024, we will continue to raise our profile within the community and grow our representation within both the regions and disadvantage sector. Together, we will strive to fill the 'unmet' need and help more WA kids who are relying on us for support.

Chris Chatterton
Chief Executive Officer



“

Riley and Hanna have endured so much after being born 15 weeks premature. Due to having Cerebral Palsy, Riley tires very easily and can't walk long distances. The mobility pram we received from Variety has been such a blessing and is so practical for family outings with her sisters. ”

– Grecian, mum of Riley (age 5)

Our Vision

For no WA child living with disability, sickness, or experiencing disadvantage to miss out on Variety's support.

Our Mission

To empower WA kids living with disability, sickness or experiencing disadvantage to live, laugh and learn.





We help WA kids living with disability, sickness or experiencing disadvantage by delivering support in four ways.



Grants

Vital funding for practical equipment and items to help kids across a range of needs including education, technology, sensory, medical and mobility.



Scholarships

Helping talented WA kids in need to follow their dreams and reach their full potential in sports, the arts or academics.



Programs

Supportive programs giving kids opportunity and inclusion, such as the Variety Choir and Variety Motor Mouth Camp.



Experiences

Bringing joy to Variety kids and their families through special events and experiences, including the annual Variety Kids Christmas Party.

Your Impact



\$1,619,114

Worth of assistance for WA kids



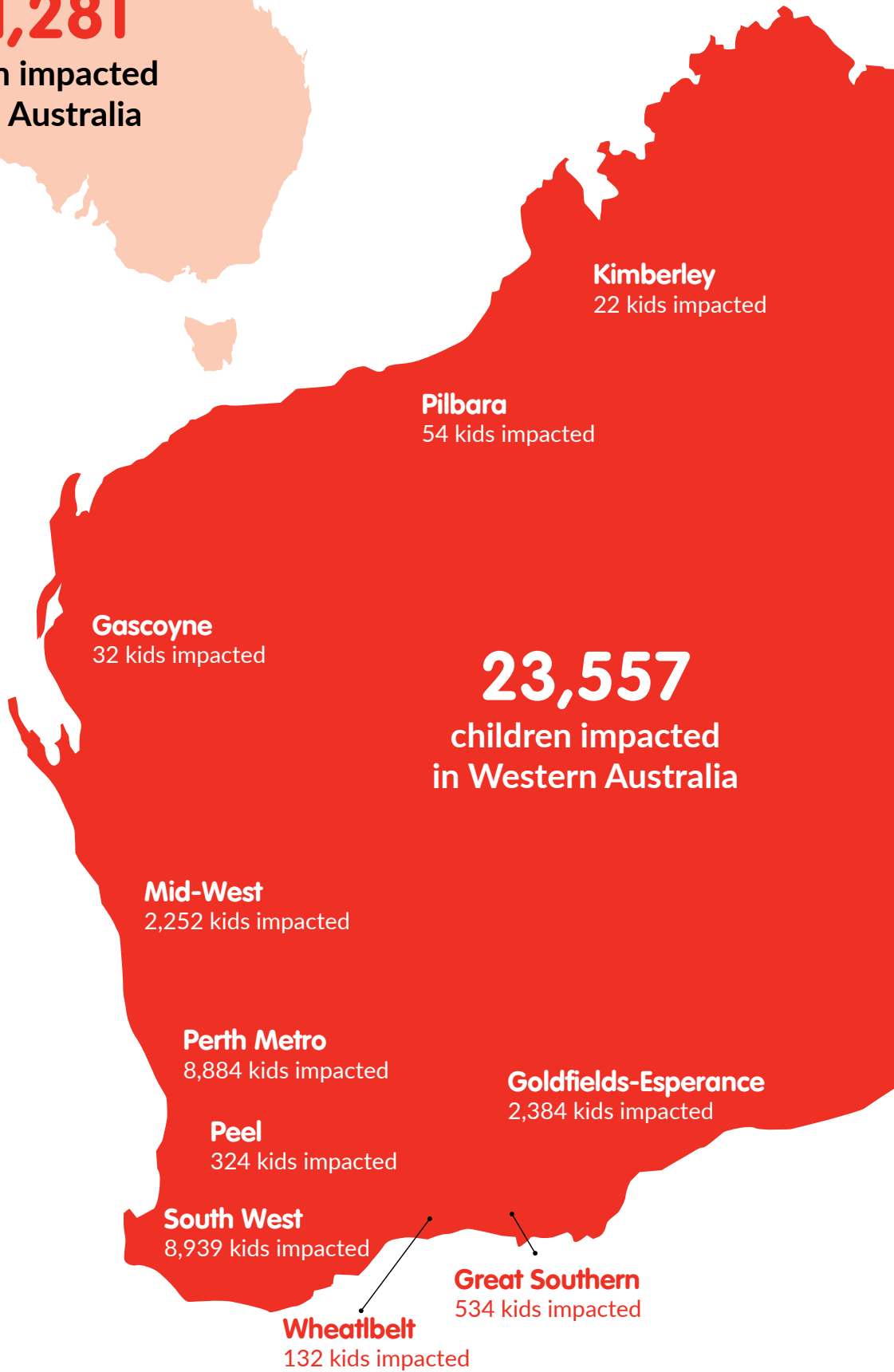
23,557

WA kids received support



894

Requests for assistance approved to individuals and organisations



Variety Grants

Variety WA Grants provide essential equipment to assist children in Western Australia who are living with disability, sickness or experiencing disadvantage.

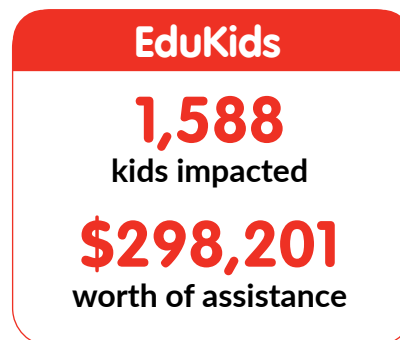
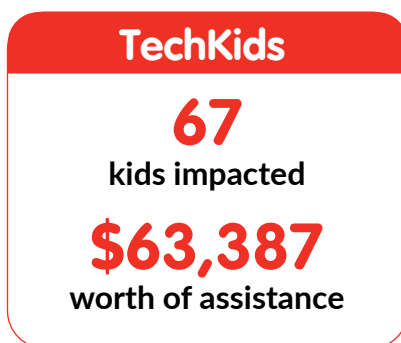
ThriveKids focuses on equipment to aid children in behavioural regulation, physical development, independence, social inclusion and general well-being.

BeKids provides practical equipment facilitating children's access to the community, recreation and promoting their well-being.

TechKids specialises in assistive technology supporting children in education, communication, behavioural regulation and safety.

EduKids assists vulnerable students to access essential 'back-to-school' equipment such as stationery, uniforms and more.

Community supports schools and organisations directly working with WA kids living with disability, sickness or experiencing disadvantage.





Djimon's story

16-year-old Djimon loves enjoying the outdoors with his family, riding on his new specialised tricycle from Variety WA.

Mum, Elizabeth, said autism meant Djimon often found the world outside daunting. Not wanting him to miss out on excursions, Elizabeth applied for a ThriveKids grant for a trike. Djimon now revels in outings, feeling connected to his family in a safe manner, while supporting his physical and mental wellbeing.

"We are so incredibly appreciative for the grant we were given. It has made an incredible difference to not just my son's life, but to our whole family, and we are beyond grateful."

Ocean Heroes

Hundreds of WA children with autism are benefitting from increased confidence, community and fun through a Variety Community Grant to Ocean Heroes.

Using surfing to enhance social skills and promote bonding, the Grant funded new surf boards for the organisation.

Co-founder Luke Hallam said "we can now help hundreds more young people to access the ocean, gain confidence and self-belief, and also enable their families to feel the very positive effects and benefits of the young people in their lives safely experiencing the thrill of surfing. Thank you, Variety WA."



Boulder Primary School's story

Boulder Primary School's new nature playground is enhancing the learning and experiences of the school's students.

Thanks to Community Grant funding from Variety WA through the Goldfields Committee, this new accessible playground, built into the early childhood area of the school, caters to a multitude of learning aspects. It includes water play, musical aspects, a mud kitchen, slides and climbing area. The inclusive design ensures that children of all abilities can participate, fostering a sense of belonging and equality among the students.

Deputy Principal Jennie McMeekan said, *"It's extremely exciting... and it's something that's been talked about here for six or seven years. It's not just a playground; it has created a lasting impact that will continue to benefit generations of students to come."*



Jamie's story

Six-year-old Jamie has been battling Leukaemia since he was just two.

While Jamie takes the gruelling regular treatment required in his stride, the side effects have left his body weak, with Jamie often using a wheelchair.

Thanks to a climbing frame for the family backyard provided by Variety, Jamie is now able to exercise and improve his strength and gross motor skills through play. This equipment is even more important because Jamie is immunocompromised from his condition, meaning he isn't able to visit community playgrounds due to the risk of infections.

Jamie's mum, Nicky, said *"the difference this will make for Jamie's future recovery is insurmountable, and from the bottom of our hearts we want to say thank you."*



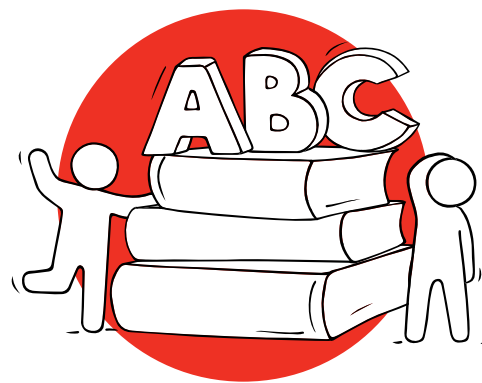
Variety EduKids

The Variety EduKids Grants program gives WA kids the positive start to school they deserve, through the provision of essential 'back to school' stationery, uniforms and more.

Almost 1 in 5 children and young people are living below the poverty line in WA and education is key to breaking the cycle of disadvantage. The program helps ensure students have basic access to education, encouraging increased self-esteem, sense of belonging and learning engagement both in the classroom and at home.

The EduKids program will undertake significant change in 2024. Working in collaboration with the Department of Education, we will assist 160 schools across all regions of the state, ensuring our most vulnerable WA kids can access the equipment they need.

Heartfelt thanks to McCusker Charitable Foundation for their generous contribution to the Variety EduKids program.



1,588
kids impacted

\$298,201
worth of assistance given



Variety Motor Mouth Camp

For many children living with complex communication needs, including physical disability or autism, speech as we know it is just not possible. Instead, they rely on a combination of subtle signs like blinks, nods or noises, alongside augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) devices, to express their needs and wants.

The annual Variety Motor Mouth Camp combines fun with intensive therapy and training for school age children who use AAC devices, their parents, siblings and carers - opening up a whole new world of communication and much needed support.

Over the course of a sunny spring weekend, 13 families took part in workshops and activities, providing children with opportunities to practice using their communication devices. Skilled volunteers, possessing backgrounds in speech pathology, occupational therapy and education assistance, guided and supported the children during these sessions, while siblings and parents also got the opportunity to enjoy workshops and time out especially for them.



13 families
attended Motor Mouth Camp

42 people
volunteered at Motor Mouth Camp





“

It was nice to feel like we belonged. Learning AAC is a slow process and sometimes it is easy to get discouraged. We all came away from camp with a clearer understanding of how to support our child... [seeing] other families in the same challenging life situations, knowing that we are all adapting to the best we can.

”

– Parent attending Variety Motor Mouth Camp

Variety Choir

The Variety Choir is an inclusive community for young individuals who share a passion for singing, music and performing.

Using singing as a foundation, the Choir fosters increased self-confidence, friendships, personal growth and community participation.

Looking ahead, we will continue to grow Choir membership, bringing joy to the kids, and audiences alike.



17 choir members
found their voice



“

I love that no one judges me and includes me. I love being able to sing as a group and have fun. The friendships I've made and how it makes me happy when I go.

”

- Variety Choir member

Variety Sunshine Packs

In 2023, Variety WA continued our collaboration with Operation Sunshine WA, working together to provide Variety Sunshine Packs for children in crisis.

Operation Sunshine WA is a volunteer run charity helping women and children displaced by family and domestic violence and/or under the care of child protection services in WA.

These packs are delivered to Child Protection offices, out of home care organisations, and crisis accommodation organisations across WA. Each pack is designed to enhance the mental and wellbeing of the child and assist in their journey of healing from trauma.

Each pack has been carefully designed to include to meet a specific and important need, to create a sense of self-worth, preserve dignity, show they are valued and cared about, give comfort, and help alleviate the isolation and negative impact of displacement.



He was so excited when he opened his pack and saw all of the amazing things inside. He spent hours drawing in his colouring book, playing with the toys, even making sure that everything in his bag had its own place in his new bedroom.



- Foster Carer



1,706

Variety Sunshine Packs given

Variety Heart Scholarships

The Variety Heart Scholarships recognise the remarkable abilities of Western Australian kids living with disability, illness or disadvantage, empowering them to pursue their dreams in sports, arts and academics. The program nurtures these talented individuals by providing equipment, tuition, competition fees and more.

In 2023, we proudly awarded Variety Heart Scholarships to 58 exceptional children, celebrating their achievements at the annual Variety Heart Scholarships Award Evening held at Friday's Studio in West Perth. The event was hosted by AACTA award-winning Joel Jackson and featured heartwarming performances, including a duet by Joel and Braydee, a current scholarship recipient, supported by the Variety Choir.

We extend our congratulations to each Variety Heart Scholarship recipient and wish them success in chasing their dreams.

A special heartfelt thank you to the Bendat Family Foundation and the Whately Foundation for their ongoing contribution to the Variety Heart Scholarships.



58 kids
awarded a Variety Heart Scholarship

\$174,809
worth of assistance given



“

This scholarship means the difference between Marlee setting aside her dreams and ambitions and setting sights on a bright future. She continues to make us proud everyday not only in her performing arts world but remaining a humble, kind and dedicated young lady. Please pass on my deepest gratitude to the sponsors of this scholarship for their kindness and generosity but also for selecting Marlee to be the recipient of this scholarship. It has given her more than they could ever imagine. ”

- Tamara, mum of Marlee (age 13)



Variety Kids Christmas Party

The annual Variety Kids Christmas Party is a heartwarming event that brings joy to hundreds of children and families.

This exclusive invitation is extended to families within the Variety community, providing an opportunity for many families to share the Christmas spirit together. Throughout the day, children and parents revel in the amusement park rides and Christmas activities, topping it off with receiving a gift from Santa.

A special thank you to the wonderful volunteers that help make this event a success.

Heartfelt thanks to Stan Perron Charitable Foundation for their long term support of the Variety Kids Christmas Party.



426 kids
received a Christmas gift
167 families
attended the
Variety Kids Christmas Party





Variety WA Board

Variety WA Board

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Jenny Rachmat

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Jay Wakefield

Treasurer

Anthony Begley

Paul Burgess

Don Brooker

Berry Johnston

Roy Mellon

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Variety WA wishes to acknowledge the generous donation made by the Estate of Edward Scott Smith in 2023.

In leaving a gift to Variety in his Will, Mr Smith has left a lasting legacy to help WA kids who are living with disability, illness or experiencing disadvantage. We extend our heartfelt thanks and kind wishes to his family.

By including a gift to Variety in your Will, you can make a huge impact on the lives of kids in need, now and into the future. Your gift will play a crucial role in ensuring Variety can continue to support kids when their families turn to us for help. Leaving a gift in your Will is one of the most effective and long-lasting ways you can impact a cause that is close to your heart.

For more information or to speak to someone about your intentions, please contact us on 9355 3655.





www.variety.org.au/wa

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