



2024-2025 Impact Report



We Empower Children to *Live Without Limits.*

OUR MISSION:

We empower children who are sick, experiencing disadvantage or living with disabilities through life changing programs that provide **medical care, mobility, education and support** to live without limits.



Welcome

AND THANK YOU

For more than 50 years, Variety has supported over two million children and their families across Australia. Through direct assistance and partnerships with hospitals, schools, community groups and charitable organisations, we have delivered meaningful, practical support where it is needed most.

In the past decade alone, and despite the impact of COVID, more than \$115 million has been granted to support children and families across Australia.

Our work is powered by an extraordinary network of volunteers, fundraisers and corporate partners who share our commitment to improving children's lives. By creating engaging partnerships and meaningful volunteering opportunities — and creating engaging fundraising experiences, we deliver more than 60 motoring and non-motoring events annually across every State and Territory.

In 2025, through seven Variety chapters nationwide, we delivered more than \$11 million in grants supporting over 184,000 children and their families. Each grant represents opportunity, inclusion and hope.

Despite ongoing economic pressures, the demand for our support continues to grow. I am deeply grateful that our partners and supporters have remained steadfast in their commitment, enabling us to respond to increasing unmet need and to help build a more inclusive, compassionate and positive community where every child has the opportunity to thrive.

To our volunteers, event participants, corporate sponsors, donors, partners and dedicated staff — thank you. Your generosity, energy and unwavering commitment make a lasting difference in the lives of Australia's most vulnerable children and their families.

John Dennis

Variety - the Children's Charity Australia
Chairperson



Our History

FROM HELPING ONE ABANDONED BABY IN 1928

In October 1927, a group of local theatre owners formed the Variety social club and met at the William Penn Hotel, Pittsburgh, USA. A year later in November 1928, Variety held their first black tie annual banquet dinner for 1,100 with a circus theme complete with big top Tent, a moustached Chief Barker (a showman exhorting the public to join in/ come along), Barkers (members), Dough Guy (Treasurer) etc. The Barker in his black top hat became the Variety logo from the outset with the slogan "Variety - The Heart of Showbusiness".

Due to the Ball's opulence and publicity, on Christmas Eve a month later at the Sheridan Square Theatre Pittsburgh, a mother left a child in the nursery with a handwritten note attached to its scanty dress:

“ I cannot afford to keep this child. I have six others. My husband has been unemployed for a long time. I have named her Catherine. She was born November 24th. I am leaving it here in this theatre because of what I have heard and know of the charity of theatre people and with a prayer that you will care for her.

– A heartbroken mother.

Despite extensive publicity, the club members searched for the mother in vain, eventually naming her Catherine Sheridan Variety. They collectively looked after her until she was 5 when she was adopted and her name changed to Joan, to protect her privacy.



Variety's First annual banquet at the William Penn Hotel, 1928

Interest in establishing local Variety chapters (to be known as Tents) spread across the USA during the 1930s and the Variety message was promulgated to other countries commencing with Tent 28 Variety Club of Canada in 1945 and Tent 36 Great Britain by 1949, with HRH Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh becoming a founding Gold Card member and their lifelong Patron for the next 72 years.

Our Australian roots also lie in the entertainment industry resulting with the introduction of local Sydney businessmen Royce Smeal and Reg Watson to Earl Mountbatten of Burma at a Variety Club Great Britain gala function in London in 1974. Both became Life Patrons of Variety Club International and returned to Sydney to establish Variety Club in Australia together with Grahame Mapp and other founding members. Earl Mountbatten's nephew, HRH Charles III Prince of Wales generously became the Australian Patron and NSW Governor Sir Roden Cutler, our Vice Patron.



Variety's eleven founding fathers with Catherine Variety Sheridan



Our History



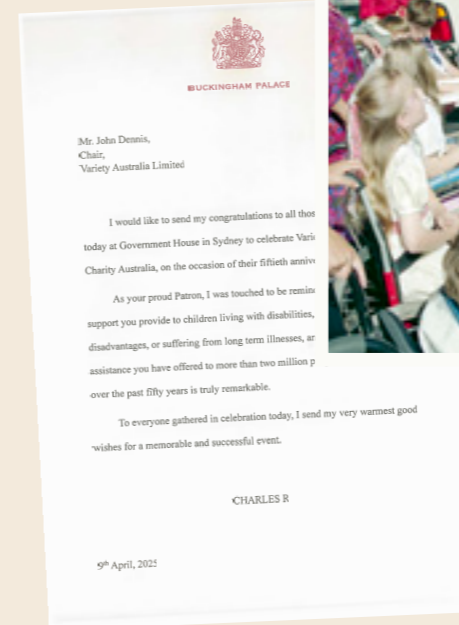
HRH Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh, Royce Smeal David Frost, Dennis Wright - Variety Club International Convention Grosvenor House Hotel London 1975

For our first decade, Variety had no staff and operated from the various offices of Dennis Wright, Reg Watson and Grahame Mapp with all secretarial support and operating costs covered by these generous Board members. Through their advertising contacts, actors Paul Hogan and Stuart Wagstaff would become Tent 56's first two Chief Barkers to build public and media profile. Tony Barber similarly increased Variety's profile in Victoria, eventually becoming their regional Chair.

Variety's first Children's Christmas party was held in 1977 and in 1980 the "Ladies of Variety" was established by Gillian Mapp. This was also the year television personality Derryn Hinch sketched the heart and top hat logo that has remained the worldwide Variety symbol for the past 45 years.

In its first decade from 1975 to 1984, Variety Club Australia raised almost \$3 million for children in need, primarily via gala dining and media awards events linked to the television and entertainment industry. Some of our major grants during this period included the Variety Club Children's Limb Clinic at the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children and providing over 100 Sunshine Coaches to organisations across Australia to bring children with disability 'out of the dark and into the light'. During these early years, Tent 56 was based in Sydney and spread across Australia opening regional committee branches – all run by volunteers. Perth opened in 1980, Brisbane in 1981, Melbourne in 1982, Adelaide in 1984, ACT in 1989, Tasmania and Illawarra in 1990, NT in 1991.

It's a well-known story that entrepreneur and adventurer Dick Smith graciously approached Variety Club Australia to become the beneficiary of a car rally "Bash" event akin to the Redex Trials of his childhood. The 1985 Land Rover Bourke to Burketown Bash would start at the Sydney Opera House on Saturday 1st June 1985 followed by a short 783km drive to Bourke for the official B to B Bash start the next day. It attracted 52 pre-1965 vehicles and 200 participants who would travel 3,176 kms. The event raised over \$250,000 to support the purchase of 15 new Sunshine Coaches with Variety Club Australia granting over \$1 million in total for the first time in its history.



King Charles III (then Prince Charles) became the first Variety patron – it was Prince Charles' first Australian patronage; A role he continues to hold today



and America's Cup hero Iain Murray. Additionally, the first South Australian Regional Bash raised \$368,000 and the first Western Australian Regional Bash raised over \$180,000 to enable motoring events to contribute over \$3 million of the \$4.75 million national Variety Club fundraising total from all sources that year.

These Variety State branches would later become independent "Tents" with separate membership and Boards: Tent 56 was retained by Variety Club of NSW with the NSW Governor becoming its patron. Tent 74 Variety Club of Western Australia was established in 1995, Tent 75 Variety Club of South Australia, Tent 76 Variety Club of Queensland, 77 Variety Club of Victoria and Tent 78 Variety Club of Tasmania all in 1996 and Tent 82 Variety Club of Northern Territory in 1997.

In 2004 Variety Clubs adopted the name "Variety the Children's Charity" globally to better reflect our Mission and purpose.

Largely thanks to Chief Barker Tony Hasham who embraced and expanded this first event, by 1989 the Variety Bash alone would raise nearly \$6 million – more than double that raised by Variety in Australia in its first full decade from traditional Variety revenue sources. The 1989 BtoB was seen off at Bondi Beach by NSW Premier Nick Greiner with 206 pre-1966 vehicles and 880 people taking part over 12 days/ 6,100 kms. Participants included John Farnham, Peter Brock and Dick Johnston, British Prime Minister's daughter Carol Thatcher



Gillian Mapp, Ladies of Variety 1980



1985 Kids Christmas Party



Dick Smith's first Bash, 1985



David Small, Dick Smith AC and Tony Hasham AO with original Bash Car now in the Powerhouse Museum

Today, Variety the Children's Charity has raised close to \$750 million, with more than \$115 million granted to support Australia's most vulnerable children over the last decade alone, despite COVID impacting our events. Given our population size, we remain the best performing region within Variety globally in terms of funds raised and children impacted, thanks to our incredible supporters, donors and corporate partners.

Where We Are Today

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF VARIETY IN AUSTRALIA

This year, we proudly celebrated 50 years of supporting children and families across Australia who are sick, experiencing disadvantage, or living with a disability. What began as a small group of passionate volunteers determined to make a difference has grown into an organisation dedicated to ensuring every child has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Over five decades, Variety has helped more than 2 million children by funding mobility equipment, therapy services, medical care, communication devices and educational resources.

None of this would be possible without the incredible generosity of our donors, corporate partners, volunteers and supporters, whose dedication continues to drive Variety's mission forward. Together, we are helping children gain independence, confidence and the opportunity to thrive.

On 9 April 2025, this important milestone was celebrated with a special reception at Government House in Sydney, hosted by Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, Governor of New South Wales. The event recognised Variety's long-standing impact across Australia and celebrated the many people who have contributed to the organisation's journey over the past 50 years.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the International Heart of Variety Award to Katie O'Donnell. Living with muscular dystrophy, Katie first received a Variety grant at just 15 years old. Inspired by the support she received, she went on to dedicate more than two decades of her life to working with Variety WA, helping countless other children and families access the same life-changing support that once helped her.



Another highlight was the participation of founding Variety Australia Board member, past Variety Australia and past Variety International Chair Grahame Mapp AM, who after 50 years still continues to underwrite the Variety Heart Scholarships Awards across Australia shown above with the NSW Governor and VA Chair John Dennis.

As we celebrate this milestone, we also look to the future — continuing to evolve, expand our programs and reach more families across Australia who need support. The past 50 years have shown the incredible impact that can be achieved when communities come together, and the next chapter of Variety's story is already being written.



Variety Sunshine Coaches

These coaches help children access education, community activities, sport and experiences by providing schools and organisations with accessible transport solutions. These specially equipped vehicles help remove barriers to participation, ensuring children can safely travel, connect with their communities and experience opportunities that may otherwise be out of reach.

FOR MANY CHILDREN, THE PATH FORWARD IS COMPLEX.

Each child's journey is different, but the barriers they face impact them in deeply personal ways.

- * Mobility issues make it hard to join in at school or play with friends.
- * Without proper healthcare, many children are left without critical support.
- * Financial pressures force families to make impossible choices between basic needs and the care their children require.

THAT'S WHERE WE STEP IN.

When it feels like children and their families are left with nowhere else to turn, we stand in the gap providing the critical help and hope they thought was out of reach.

How We Help

THE VARIETY DIFFERENCE

While the individual programs we provide may not be unique, the breadth of our support for children is unmatched.

We understand that no two children's situations are the same. That's why we've created a wide range of programs designed to meet every aspect of a child's journey, addressing both immediate and long-term needs across our three core programs.

From funding essential equipment to opening doors in education, sport, and the arts, we're here to make sure every child can participate, belong and thrive. Through our grants and programs, we give children the freedom to move, learn and dream big, no matter their circumstance.



Care

Individual and Community Grants

We help children access the care and support they need from essential health equipment and therapy to well-being and family assistance. We're here to ensure no child misses out on the support they deserve, filling the gaps where other systems fall short.



Freedom

Experiences and Programs

We give children with disabilities the tools to navigate their world independently. Whether through adaptive mobility devices or access to social opportunities, we empower children to thrive — helping them play, learn, and experience the joys of childhood.



Future

Scholarships

We equip children for long term success through skills development, education, and community support. We open doors to opportunities that help children grow, thrive, and build a brighter, more inclusive future for all.



Our Impact

**PROVIDING HOPE, SUPPORT AND OPPORTUNITY
ACROSS AUSTRALIA.**

Every grant, program and experience helps create brighter futures for children and families across Australia. Together, we've created a

place where children and their families can turn to for help when times are tough and when there is nowhere else to turn.



We have granted more than
\$11,000,000
in 2024/2025

Impacting more than
184,299
children Across Australia



2,000+
grants delivered across
Australia

5,278
kids experienced a
Variety Christmas Party

More than
5,000 KIDS
visited during a motoring event

Support reached
children in every
state and territory



300+
Programs and Experiences
Delivered Across Australia

Over
\$2,000,000
of programs delivered

More than
2,500 VOLUNTEERS
support Variety programs, events and
fundraising across Australia



Our Impact

TOGETHER, WE'RE DELIVERING MEANINGFUL IMPACT WHERE IT MATTERS MOST.



Care

INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY GRANTS

103

Therapy Grants

8

Wigs

38

Hearing Devices

142

Paediatric medical service flights

18

Basic Bedroom Furniture

919

Hospital Variety Ward



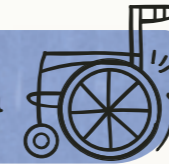
“

Before speech therapy, Dash was withdrawn, had no confidence, hid from everyone, and found communication with others extremely difficult. Dash is now a completely different person and while I am writing this, my eyes are filling up with tears. What you have done for our family by allowing us to get a grant for his speech, I will be forever grateful.

”

- Megan, Dash's Mum

Freedom



EXPERIENCES AND PROGRAMS

12

Sunshine Coaches

15,218

Kids Experienced Outings

31

Accessible Playgrounds

1,604

Bikes or Modified Bikes

“

I love all that you guys are doing for children so that they can be included to join in with families just to be able to feel ok to do so. Without this charity and the staff, I would've never been able to leave my house to do anything out in the open for some 'normal' enjoyment with my son.

- Parent of clinic participant ”

Future



SCHOLARSHIPS AND PROGRAMS

1,275

Attended Variety Kids Sports Days

240

Scholarships Awarded

13,331

Attended Educational Programs

38,331

Attended Just Like You Program

“

My Variety Heart Scholarships have meant the world to me. It has allowed me to compete, access expert coaching, and the latest equipment that I otherwise would not have been able to afford. Every record I've broken and every title I've won wouldn't have been possible without Variety's support. I'm forever grateful for their belief in young people like me and all that they do to help kids' dreams come true.

- Layla, Scholarship Recipient ”

Figures represent selected highlights from Variety state impact reports across Australia.

Grants from Across Australia

NATIONAL AND LOCAL REACH

TAS

Arlo's Story

Arlo was born in 2015 after a pregnancy filled with heartbreak and uncertainty. Halfway through, his parents learned that his twin would not survive, and that Arlo himself had a rare congenital condition called bilateral vertical talus, affecting around one in 10,000 births.

While government support has played an important role, there were times when Arlo's family was juggling close to ten medical and allied health appointments every fortnight. The pressure was significant.

Support from Variety Tasmania helped fill the gaps. Assistance with school essentials and the chance to begin saving for Arlo's future provided practical help and peace of mind.

Today, Arlo wears his orthotics to kindergarten, where he is thriving. He loves being around positive people and has built strong relationships with his teachers and peers as he prepares for the years of learning ahead.



QLD

Sophia's Story

At just six years old, Sophia faces challenges no child should ever have to endure.

Diagnosed with Sanfilippo syndrome – a rare, degenerative condition that causes progressive brain damage and loss of mobility – Sophia's life expectancy is heartbreakingly short.

Despite this, Sophia's parents, Alannah and Zakkary, are unwavering in their mission: to give their daughter the happiest, fullest life possible. But with the family unable to work their options were limited.

Thanks to your fundraising and the support of Variety Queensland, Sophia now has access to a specially designed swing with a harness – safe, sensory-rich, and tailored to her needs.

This isn't just playtime. For Sophia, it supports her physical development, stimulates her senses, and gives her moments of pure happiness in the fresh air. Alannah and Zakkary are deeply grateful. Thank you!



Meet Annalise

Annalise was born with Angelman syndrome, a rare genetic disorder that presents a range of challenges, including global developmental delay, impaired movement and balance, lack of speech, seizures, and feeding difficulties. She can't talk or walk and requires full-time, one-on-one support from her family and carers. Everyday activities that many of us take for granted – like travelling in the car – became difficult, stressful, and at times unsafe, as Annalise outgrew conventional car seats.

Thanks to Variety, Annalise's family received two Careva Harnesses, specially designed to provide support, safety, and comfort during car journeys. These harnesses have completely transformed their travel experiences, making every trip smoother, safer, and far more enjoyable.

Now, Annalise can sit securely and comfortably, allowing her family to relax and focus on making memories together rather than worrying about her safety.

The difference is remarkable. Annalise can now enjoy excursions with her family and her beloved pet dog, Hogi, sharing smiles and laughter along the way. Whether it's a short drive to the park or a longer family outing, the Careva Harnesses give her the freedom to be part of the adventure, safely and comfortably. For Annalise and her family, what was once a stressful experience has now become a joyful and inclusive part of their lives – a true testament to how support from Variety can transform daily life for children with disabilities.

SA

Leelah's Story

Seven-year-old Leelah lives with auditory processing disorder which causes a range of learning challenges. She has been cared for by her grandmother since she was just eight months old and despite the hurdles, her grandmother is doing everything she can to support Leelah's learning and development.

With help from Variety South Australia, Leelah can now access ongoing occupational therapy. This support not only assists with her immediate learning needs but also provides the assessments and reports required to pursue future NDIS funding, giving her the best opportunity to learn and thrive.



NSW

Huda's Story

Huda is our beautiful two-year-old daughter. From the moment she was born, we knew her journey would be different. After months of hospital visits and tests, we finally learned she has two rare gene defects causing significant developmental delays. We moved from New Zealand to Sydney in search

of answers, leaving behind our families and support system. With only my husband working and me caring for Huda full-time, the cost of therapies and equipment quickly became overwhelming.

Without access to the NDIS, we struggled to afford the essential therapies that could help Huda learn, grow, and thrive. That's when we discovered Variety and applied for a Variety Therapy Grant.

The grant has allowed us to access all the therapies Huda needs to reach her milestones. Without this support, it would be impossible for us to cover the costs on our own.

Thanks to Variety and its generous supporters, Huda now has the chance to reach her potential. Your kindness has lifted a huge weight from our shoulders and brought hope, comfort, and joy to our family. From the bottom of our hearts — thank you.

- Ayesha, Huda's Mum



VIC

Jake's Story

Jake is seven years old and full of curiosity, energy, and determination. But for much of his young life, everyday experiences – like walking down

the street or attending therapy – were incredibly overwhelming. Jake lives with Level 3 Autism, ADHD, a mild intellectual disability and chronic Asthma. Sensory overload, mobility challenges and anxiety make it difficult for him to engage with the community or feel safe outside of the home.

In early 2025, Jake received a life-changing gift through Variety: an assistance dog named Echo. And after just three months, Echo has already transformed his world.

Since Echo arrived, Jake has started walking around the block unassisted, participating more in therapy, and connecting in ways his family once only dreamed of. Even Jake's support team are amazed at the progress he's made in such a short time. And Echo's impact hasn't stopped there – she also helps Jake's sister Zoe co-regulate during therapy, and brings quiet comfort to their mum, Joanne, at the end of long days.

The gift of an assistance dog has completely changed not only Jake's life but that of his family, Echo has given this incredible little boy a chance at having some independence and reaching beyond what was ever thought possible.



WA

Zach's Story

Zach, aged six, lives with cerebral palsy and uses an AAC (augmentative and alternative communication) device to communicate with the world around him. While Zach has a strong voice, finding spaces where that voice can truly be heard — and celebrated — can be challenging.

At Variety WA's Motor Mouth Camp, Zach and his family found more than just a supportive environment. They found confidence, connection and a sense of belonging among other children and families who understood their journey. The camp provided Zach with opportunities to build communication skills, engage with peers, and express himself in ways that felt empowering and joyful.

“Our experience at the Motor Mouth Camp really allowed Zach's voice to shine,” says his mum, Elle. “Seeing him connect with others and grow in confidence was incredibly special — it's a moment we'll never forget.”

Through experiences like Motor Mouth Camp, Variety helps children like Zach build confidence, strengthen communication and create meaningful connections — ensuring every child has the opportunity to be heard, supported and included.



Scholarships

SUPPORTING TALENTED CHILDREN IN SPORT AND THE ARTS.

We believe every child deserves the chance to reach their full potential, regardless of their background, location, challenges or ability.

Across Australia, Variety Scholarship recipients are developing their talents, building resilience and gaining access to opportunities that help shape their futures. Through these scholarships, Variety supports young people to pursue their passions while building confidence, independence and lifelong skills.

Scholarships help cover the costs of coaching, equipment, tuition, travel and development opportunities. Beyond financial assistance, they provide encouragement, connection and belief in what is possible — opening doors that might otherwise remain closed.



One young person benefiting from this support is Luke, a determined 14-year-old balancing school, competitive swimming and volunteering as a lifesaver with Broadbeach Surf Club. Living with Level 2 Autism and mobility challenges, Luke has already achieved remarkable success, recently being named 2025 Queensland School Swimming, Nationals Multiclass Swimmer and 2025 State School Swimming Male Multiclass Swimmer. With support from Variety, Luke is able to compete at major events such as the Queensland Championships and Australian Trials, helping him continue pursuing his passion and reach his full potential.



The Variety Scholarship Program is proudly supported by the Grahame Mapp Family Foundation.

280+

Scholarships Awarded Across Australia

Areas of Support

Excellence in Sport:

Supports talented young athletes across a range of sports including basketball, athletics, netball, tennis and more.

Excellence in the Arts:

Supports emerging artists, dancers and musicians to continue developing their creative talents.



Meet Isla

Eleven-year-old Isla lives with autism, anxiety and sensory processing difficulties.

Despite these challenges, she has found confidence, joy and resilience through Aerial Acrobat classes. Isla has received a Variety scholarship to continue her lessons. This support not only eases the financial strain on her family but also gives Isla the chance to thrive, build independence and work towards her dream of performing.

“When Isla was eight years old, we bought a sensory swing for our backyard to help her regulate her sensory system. This is where her love of aerial hammock began.

Isla is autistic and experiences high levels of anxiety, which has sometimes held her back from

doing what she loves. Before receiving the Variety scholarship, Isla was attending one lesson per week and still needed me to stay with her during class because of her anxiety.

Since receiving the scholarship, Isla now attends lessons three times per week, and her confidence has grown tremendously. She is progressing in her aerial skills and has found a community of like-minded people.

She is now confident enough that I no longer need to stay for the entire lesson. Variety has helped her find a safe, accepting and inclusive environment where she can truly do what she loves.”

– Evette, Isla’s mum

Programs and Experiences

EDUCATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL

Variety runs inclusive programs designed to educate, empower and inspire children. These programs support kids in building confidence, learning new skills and feeling a sense of belonging in their communities. From active initiatives like sports days and camps to practical support like financial literacy and bike programs, we provide opportunities for every child to shine.



Bikes for Kids

This program gives the gift of independence and joy to children through the granting of bikes. Every child deserves the simple thrill of riding a bike. For children living with a disability, illness or experiencing disadvantage, a bike offers far more than just a ride — it delivers freedom, confidence and inclusion.

With many families facing increasing financial pressure, this program is more important than ever. By providing bikes and safety equipment, Variety helps children get active, build independence and enjoy the physical and mental wellbeing that comes from movement, play and outdoor adventure.

Inclusion Project

This program helps make live sport more accessible for children, young people and families living with disability or sensory challenges. In partnership with the Hawks Foundation and the Hawthorn Football Club, Variety supports game-day sensory spaces, providing a calm, low-stimulation environment where children can take a break from noise and crowds, then return to enjoy the footy when they're ready.



Christmas Party

Variety's Christmas Parties bring joy, laughter and unforgettable memories to children. These inclusive celebrations give kids the chance to enjoy festive activities, meet Santa and connect with other families in a supportive environment — creating special moments that remind every child they belong.



Motor Mouth Camp

Variety's Motor Mouth Camp supports children with complex communication needs who rely on Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) devices to express themselves.

The program brings children and their families together with specialist therapists and educators to help them build confidence using their communication tools. Through shared activities, learning sessions and peer support, families gain practical skills while children develop greater independence and connection — helping them find their voice and communicate more confidently in everyday life.



Zoo Days

Variety Creative Arts

This program provides children with a safe and supportive space to explore emotions, build confidence and express themselves through creativity. Delivered by qualified creative arts therapists, the program uses art and play-based activities to support emotional wellbeing, self-awareness and positive connection, particularly for children who may struggle to communicate their feelings through words alone.



Variety Choir

Sunshine Packs

Sunshine Packs provide thoughtfully prepared backpacks to children entering out-of-home care or crisis accommodation — often at one of the most vulnerable and uncertain times in their lives.

Each pack is filled with essential items such as clothing, toiletries, books, and comfort objects like a soft toy or blanket — small gestures that deliver an enormous impact. For many children, it's the first time in days or weeks that they've received something just for them — a powerful reminder that they are seen, cared for, and not alone.

Programs and Experiences

EDUCATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL

Fly2Health

Fly2Health is helping improve access to vital healthcare services for children and families living in regional and remote communities. Through telehealth and outreach support, Fly2Health connects families with allied health professionals including speech pathologists, occupational therapists and psychologists, helping children access the care they need closer to home. By reducing barriers to essential services, Fly2Health is creating greater opportunities for children to thrive, no matter where they live.



Breakfast Club

The Variety School Breakfast Club helps children start the day nourished, focused and ready to learn by providing access to a healthy breakfast in a safe and welcoming environment at school. Delivered in partnership with schools and community supporters, the program creates a positive start to the day while helping children feel supported, included and ready to participate in the classroom.



Sports Days / Camps

Just Like You

This program helps young people build understanding, empathy and respect for people living with a disability.

Through engaging and interactive school workshops, students learn that everyone experiences the world differently and that inclusion begins with kindness and acceptance. By encouraging open conversations and challenging stereotypes, the program helps create more inclusive classrooms, schools and communities where every child feels valued and respected.

Financial Literacy Program

This program helps young people build confidence and practical life skills by teaching the fundamentals of money management, budgeting and financial decision-making. By providing children and families with the tools to better understand finances, the program supports greater independence, resilience and long-term wellbeing.

Hair With Heart

185KGS OF HAIR DONATED THIS YEAR

Every year, thousands of generous Australians take part in Variety's Hair with Heart program, fundraising and donating their hair to help change the lives of children experiencing hair loss due to medical conditions such as cancer, alopecia and trichotillomania.

By cutting, colouring or shaving their hair, supporters raise vital funds to provide medical-grade wigs for children who have lost their hair. These custom-made wigs restore confidence and help children feel more like themselves during incredibly challenging times.

The impact of this generosity is profound. A custom-made medical wig can cost around \$6,000 and typically lasts only 18 months to two years as a child's head grows — placing them well beyond the reach of many families. It can take up to 20 donated ponytails to create just one wig, making Hair with Heart a true team effort driven by compassion and community support.

Thanks to the incredible commitment of Hair with Heart supporters, more than 260 children across Australia have received wigs since 2018. This year alone, Hair Heroes from across the country chopped their locks, shaved their heads or coloured their hair, raising over \$610,000 and donating more than 2,000 ponytails to help create wigs for children who need them most.



Miss World

BEAUTY WITH A PURPOSE

Miss World Australia provides a unique platform for young women to champion causes that matter, aligning closely with Variety's commitment to supporting children and families in need. Through the global Beauty with a Purpose initiative, contestants use their voice and visibility to advocate for real social impact — raising funds, building awareness, and contributing to programs focused on children's health, education, and wellbeing.

Participants are selected to represent their state and undertake a series of challenges that extend far beyond appearance. Through interviews, charity presentations, talent, and public engagement, they demonstrate leadership, communication, and a genuine commitment to their chosen cause.

For many finalists, the experience becomes a launchpad—equipping them with the confidence, networks, and platform to amplify their advocacy. The national winner continues this work on a global stage, further elevating the causes they represent and driving meaningful, lasting change.

Miss World Australia reflects the evolving role of modern ambassadors—women who are values-led, articulate, and committed to using their influence with purpose. Through this program, we see individuals step into leadership, connect with communities, and contribute to positive outcomes for children across Australia and beyond.

Functions & Events

MOMENTS THAT BRING OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER

Across the country, our events and functions create meaningful opportunities for connection, celebration and impact. From long lunches and gala evenings to community-driven experiences, each event plays a vital role in bringing people together and supporting the work we do for children and families.



Spin 4 Kids

Spin 4 Kids brings communities together to raise vital funds. Across the country, schools, corporates and community groups take part in this inclusive, high-energy cycling challenge, turning collective effort into real impact.



Variety Vintage

Variety Vintage is South Australia's premier charity wine event, bringing together leading winemakers and supporters for a unique auction experience. Featuring exclusive, specially bottled vintages and a curated dining experience.



Magic Round Long Lunch

This is an unforgettable afternoon of great food, great company and plenty of footy banter. Featuring NRL legends, the event brings fans together for a memorable day and powerful stories from the Variety community.



Carols by Candlelight

Carols by Candlelight brings the community together for a magical evening of music, celebration and festive spirit. Featuring live performances and a shared sense of joy, the event creates a memorable experience for families across the community.



Gala

800 guests joined us for the Golden Gala, a truly special evening celebrating 50 years of Variety in Australia. It was an evening of elegance, impact and plenty of fun as our community came together to mark this milestone.



Grand Final Lunch

The annual Variety Grand Final Lunch brought footy fans, supporters and partners together for a memorable day with a meaningful purpose. From powerful stories to generous support, the event raised over \$500k and helped fund two Variety Sunshine Coaches, opening up more access, connection and opportunity for kids in need.

OUR OTHER EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS:

- * Variety Long Lunch
- * Showdown Luncheon
- * Monster Book Fair
- * Variety of Gins
- * Variety Kids Choir
- * Variety of Chefs

Motoring Events

WHERE FUN, COMMUNITY AND LIFE-CHANGING IMPACT COME TOGETHER.

Variety's iconic motoring events once again hit the road this year, bringing together adventure, camaraderie and compassion to help create brighter futures for children in need across Australia.

Through a diverse range of motoring events, including the Variety Bash, Jet Trek, 4WD Adventures and motorcycle rides — our passionate community of participants, sponsors and volunteers came together to raise vital funds in support of children in need.

Our motoring community travelled thousands of kilometres through some of Australia's most remote and breathtaking landscapes, connecting metropolitan, regional and remote communities along the way. From rugged outback tracks to country towns and coastal routes, each journey shared the spirit of Variety far beyond the finish line.

Along these routes, motoring events delivered grants, school visits, vital equipment and meaningful experiences for children and families. These moments, often in places where support is needed most, reflect the unique power of Variety's motoring events to combine fundraising with real, on-the-ground impact.

We are deeply grateful to every participant, supporter, official and sponsor who made these journeys possible. Your spirit of adventure and unwavering commitment to Variety's mission ensure that every kilometre travelled brings hope, connection and opportunity to children across Australia.



Rally Around Victoria



Aussie Muscle Car Run



Jet Trek



4WD Adventure

X5



Adventure Ride



Creative Car Cruise

PLUS MORE VARIETY MOTORING EVENTS ACROSS AUSTRALIA:

* Moto Run

* Brats Bash

* Ute Run

* Postie Bike Dash



NATIONAL variety BASH 2025

- South Australia
- Western Australia
- Northern Territory
- Victoria
- Queensland
- New South Wales



650+ Colourful Cars

1,600 Entrants

\$8,735,111

Raised for kids in need

+

Thousands of Children Impacted Along the Way!

Motoring Events

NATIONAL VARIETY BASH

In 2025, Variety – the Children’s Charity proudly celebrates 50 years of operations in Australia. A major highlight of this anniversary year is the return of the National Variety Bash – the first in a decade – bringing together every Bash route from across the country to celebrate this remarkable achievement.

In August, more than 650+ colourful Bash cars, carrying over 1,600 entrants, will make their way to South Australia. Along the journey, participants will travel through regional and remote communities, supporting local economies and sharing the spirit of Variety with schools, families and communities across Australia.

The Variety Bash is one of Variety’s most iconic fundraising events, bringing together supporters from across the nation to raise vital funds for children in need. More than just a motoring adventure, the Bash is a powerful expression of community, generosity and shared purpose in action.



Delivered by Variety state teams and supported by participants, volunteers and partners, the Bash raises significant funds each year to support grants, programs and experiences nationwide. Along the route, Bash events also create unforgettable moments for children and families – visiting schools, hospitals and communities, and delivering joy, connection and support where it is needed most.

Through its reach, longevity and impact, the Variety Bash continues to play a vital role in helping Variety support children across metropolitan, regional and remote communities, while uniting Australians behind a common cause.

Board Members & Staff

THANK YOU

David Small
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

John Dennis
CHAIRPERSON

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TREASURER + DIRECTOR WA

Graham Bowring
CO-OPT DIRECTOR

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Greg Lewis
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National Sponsors



Supporting those most vulnerable in the community with a particular focus on children. Also provides scholarships to talented children who achieve despite adversity; and the promotion of nature play to promote resilience and positive well being.



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