



THE KIDS'
CANCER
PROJECT

YOUR IMPACT

SPRING NEWSLETTER
2026

Your generosity is
helping change the future
for children with cancer.

Here's the impact
we've made
together.



PAGE 4

Blakely's incredible journey
from uncertainty to a
childhood full of joy

PAGE 6 & 7

How your donations
have funded life-changing
research

PAGE 11

Looking to the future:
Our plans for even
greater impact

YOUR IMPACT FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER RESEARCH

We're celebrating the incredible impact you've made.

Every donation makes a difference. Together, you've helped fund groundbreaking childhood cancer research, supported brilliant scientists and brought hope to families across Australia.

Here's what you've made possible over the last 12 months.



\$3.34M
invested
into
research



38
research
projects
supported



9,572
bears donated



\$2,268,432
raised by fundraisers



50+
fundraising events
delivered



21
research institutes
supported nationally



71
hospitals across
Australia received bears



47
researchers supported
nationally



110,000+
individual donations made



When my daughter Charli was diagnosed with leukaemia aged two, our world changed forever.

When hope seemed lost, a new treatment funded by The Kids' Cancer Project changed everything.

Because of your generosity, researchers are making incredible progress towards kinder, more effective treatments for children like Charli. But there's still more to be done. **Thank you for your continued support, helping turn research into life-saving treatments.**

– Pat, Charli's dad



→ [READ MORE ON PAGE 6](#)

A FUTURE NO ONE COULD PROMISE

Blakely Simpson is doing exactly what a nine-year-old should be, enjoying life as a kid.

This year, she's discovered a love for athletics, recording a personal best at the recent state cross-country championships. Watching her race, it's hard to imagine a time when doctors around the world were unsure if she would ever walk, or even survive.

When Blakely was born, her parents Danny and Carlie discovered a lump. It marked the beginning of months of uncertainty as doctors searched for answers.

"The emotions that you go through are unimaginable. The day when they said your daughter has cancer – it'll stick with me forever," says Danny.

Experts across Australia, Canada and the US worked together for three months before diagnosing Blakely with an exceptionally rare Ewing-like sarcoma. So rare it doesn't even have its own name.

With so few cases worldwide, Blakely's doctors were navigating unknown territory, making critical decisions without the research needed to confidently guide them.

After 18 months of gruelling treatment, she would eventually ring the bell and celebrate being cancer-free.

Today, Blakely is in Year 3, thriving at school and bringing joy to everyone around her. With the support of her coach, Courtney Collinge, Blakely has embraced athletics and all the joy it brings her.

Like many childhood cancer survivors, Blakely faces long-term effects of her treatment, living with cerebral palsy and epilepsy, but they don't define her.

"Seeing the way that she's recovered and grown, communicating confidently with sign language, is amazing," says Danny. By Blakely's side every step of the way, therapy dog Sadie brings comfort, confidence and companionship.

Watching Blakely run barefoot around her school running track in the rain is a powerful reminder of why continued research investment is vital.

That's why the Simpson family now fundraises to support childhood cancer research, helping ensure other families don't face the same uncertainty they did.

"Unless we research these cancers, discover how they work and find better treatment methods, nothing's going to change."

– Danny, Blakely's dad



A LIFETIME OF SMALL ACTS CAN CHANGE LIVES FOREVER

“Every kid deserves a fair start in life. If the support I give today can help children now and in the future then I’ve made a difference.”

Making an impact doesn’t always happen through one grand gesture.

More often, it’s built over a lifetime through small, sustained acts of generosity that combine to create a lasting difference – just like Sharon.

Sharon’s support of The Kids’ Cancer Project began with a single raffle ticket over a decade ago. In that time, she has grown her support every year, supporting numerous appeals and helping bring comfort to children in hospital through bear donations.

“I help how I can. Not in a big way, but in a little way to make a difference for these kids.”

She has also chosen to leave a gift for The Kids’ Cancer Project in her Will – ensuring her impact continues beyond her lifetime.

Her motivation is simple: the belief that every child deserves a chance to grow up healthy, and that research will be the breakthrough that changes lives.

“I’ve never known a child who’s been through cancer. I just believe every child deserves the chance to grow up and live the life ahead of them.”

Childhood cancer research takes time. Children with cancer can’t wait.

Sharon’s story is a reminder that every act of generosity builds on the last – creating a lasting impact and legacy of hope for every child and family impacted by cancer.

If you’re interested in leaving us a gift in your Will, learn more at thekidscancerproject.org.au/giftinwill

THE POWER OF SHOWING UP

To everyone who has attended an event with The Kids’ Cancer Project this year – whether it’s Christmas for a Cure, The Long Lunch, one of our Golf Days or another special occasion – thank you.

Every ticket, auction bid, sponsorship and donation helps support innovative research and has helped to raise over **\$750,000** at our events in the last 12 months.

This has helped the brilliant researchers we support make discoveries that bring kinder treatments and ultimately brighter futures for every child diagnosed with cancer.



Corporate partners at the 2025
Christmas for a Cure event



**SCAN to find out
more about our
upcoming events**



HOW YOU FUNDED THE BREAKTHROUGH CHARLI NEEDED

“Without the science, our youngest daughter Charli wouldn’t be living the healthy and happy life she is today.”

– Pat, Charli’s dad



At just two years old, Charli endured four horrific rounds of chemotherapy to try and treat her leukaemia diagnosis. But each time, the cancer remained. She needed another option.

That option came through the ZERO Childhood Cancer Program – a world-leading precision medicine initiative that studies a child’s cancer to identify the most effective treatment.

“By analysing Charli’s DNA, doctors administered a specific immunotherapy tailored to her cancer. Within months, she was cancer-free.

That progress was only made possible through research that was funded by your generosity.”

The Kids’ Cancer Projects’ initial \$546,000 investment in March 2015 into ZERO helped launch the pilot studies that proved the program’s potential. That early support paved the way for a national clinical trial and has since helped attract more than \$200 million in additional investment.

Hundreds of children have benefited from this personalised approach to treatment, reducing the reliance on existing adult cancer drugs and, importantly, saving lives.

This is why funding research matters. Early investment in innovative science can lead to life-changing breakthroughs that improve survival and reduce the long-term impact of treatment for children with cancer,



Science changed Charli’s story. Thanks to your generosity, it is helping change many more.

YOUR IMPACT IN ACTION: WORKING TOWARDS KINDER TREATMENTS

Support from people like you is helping researchers develop kinder, more personalised treatments.



Dr Katherine Pillman's research aims to uncover why neuroblastoma tumours behave differently to cancer therapy, helping doctors tailor treatment to each child. Her research combines cutting-edge gene sequencing with sophisticated computer modelling to reveal the unique biology of individual tumours.

As a Col Reynolds Fellow, Dr Pillman has received more than \$610,000 in funding over three years, thanks to supporters like you.

Neuroblastoma is one of the most common childhood cancers affecting children under five. "While current treatments have improved survival rates, they are harsh and only moderately effective, with terrible lifelong side effects," she says.

WITHOUT personalised treatment



WITH personalised treatment



By uncovering what makes each child's tumour unique, Dr Pillman is helping doctors deliver the most effective treatments while avoiding unnecessary intensive therapies.

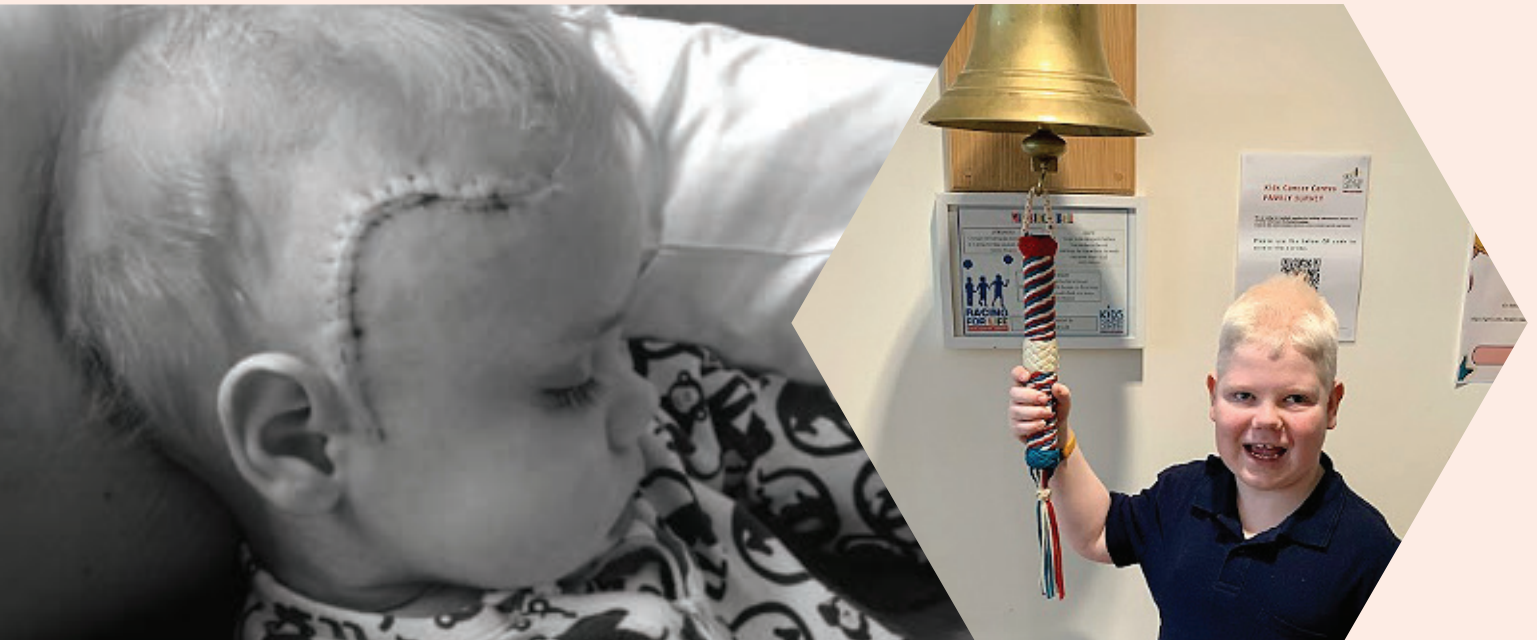
Thanks to your generosity, researchers like Dr Pillman are working towards a future where children receive treatments that are not only more effective, but kinder too.

"Your compassion and commitment to making a difference in the lives of young cancer patients, and your belief in the importance of paediatric cancer research made this possible."

– Dr Katherine Pillman, Col Reynolds Fellow

FOR THE FAMILIES STILL WAITING FOR HOPE

When Paddy was diagnosed with a brain tumour at just eight months old, mum Kristy learnt how important childhood cancer research is.



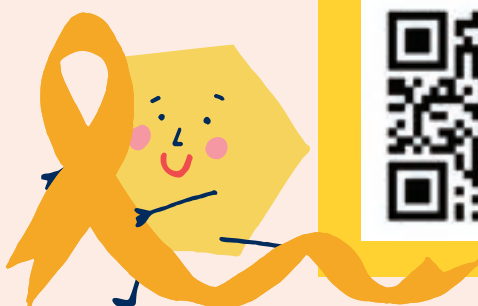
Paddy's treatment saved his life, but the experience left a lasting impact on his family. Like so many parents, Kristy faced the uncertainty, fear and hope that comes with a childhood cancer diagnosis.

She also saw the heartbreaking reality that not every family has access to effective treatment options. That experience inspired her to give back in a meaningful way. By becoming a regular giver, Kristy is helping fund the research that could lead to better treatments and brighter futures for children diagnosed with cancer.

“We are so grateful that we had treatment options for Paddy. We met many families who sadly didn't have those same options. Donating to The Kids' Cancer Project is our way of helping to give other families the life-saving opportunities we had.”

– Kristy, Paddy's mum

Your monthly support gives researchers the confidence to plan long-term studies, bringing us closer to kinder and more effective treatments for every child.



Join Kristy in giving more families hope.

BECOME A REGULAR GIVER TODAY

ONE LAP OF AUSTRALIA. 15,000KM. 730 DAYS.

Not all heroes wear capes. This one is an ordinary man in a superhero costume, pushing a magic trolley with an extraordinary dream.

Captain Australia, Simon Harvey, completed his BIG LAP around Australia to raise awareness and funds for childhood cancer research. Setting off in July 2023, he spent almost three years on the road, raising vital funds for The Kids' Cancer Project.

Simon's mission was inspired by his own cancer diagnosis. In 2016, he was given just six months to live after being diagnosed with stage four head and neck cancer. Although chemotherapy left him cancer-free, the emotional journey of recovery was only just beginning.

"No child should have to endure what I did."

Struggling with the fear and uncertainty that can linger long after treatment ends, walking was a way to heal, giving him back hope and purpose. What began as a personal journey became a mission to help others, raising funds for research to change the futures of children with cancer and showing the extraordinary difference a person can make.

Throughout his BIG LAP, more than 87,000 supporters followed his journey. Travelling with his solar-powered 'magic trolley', he carried everything he needed for his journey.

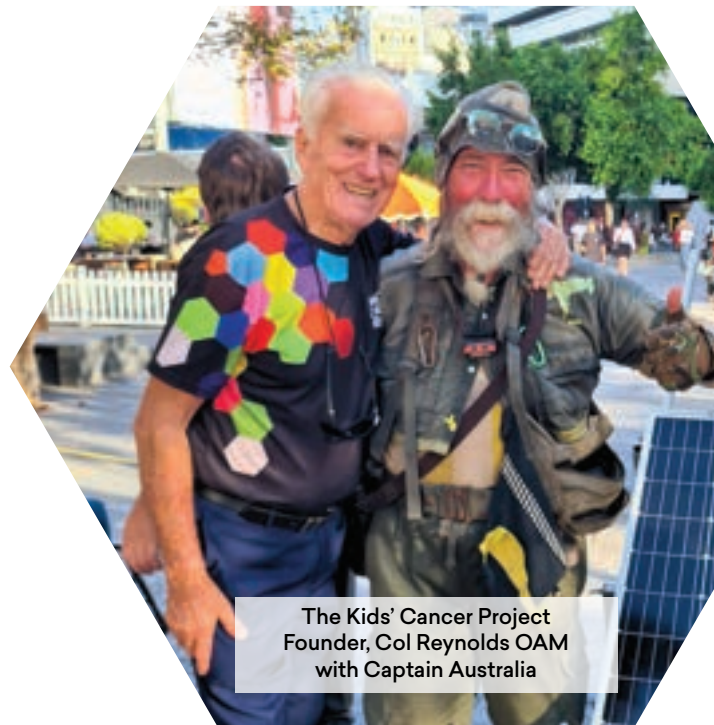
"There were so many people who fed me on the road and gave me words of encouragement."

"When we heal ourselves, we unlock the possibility of healing others."

Every kilometre and every dollar donated has helped make a lasting difference. Simon's fundraising total of over \$160,000 supports the opening of three clinical trials for childhood cancer patients across all Australian paediatric oncology hospitals.

Walking for something far greater than himself, Simon's journey is a powerful reminder that one person's courage and kindness can help change the future for children with cancer.

Whether it's big or small, your fundraiser can make a life-changing impact. Start yours today at www.fundraiseyourway.com.au



THE RESEARCH YOU HELP FUND

Thanks to the generosity of supporters like you, from September 1 The Kids' Cancer Project is investing \$1.87 million in FY27 across five pioneering research projects focused on low-survival childhood cancers.

Announced in June 2026, this funding round is focused on low-survival childhood cancers, addressing one of the greatest unmet needs in childhood cancer research.

By investing in bold, innovative projects with the potential to improve survival, develop better treatments, and reduce the long-term impacts of these low-survival cancers, we're helping to ensure that more children, adolescents, and young adults have the opportunity to live healthier, longer lives.



In our Discover pillar

we've funded Prof Simon Conn's research into new therapies for brain cancers, and Prof David Eisenstat's work on identifying new therapeutic targets for high-grade glioma.



In our Translate pillar

we've funded Prof Bryan Day's research into a promising new treatment for aggressive brain tumours, as well as Prof Lee Wong's work exploring new ways to slow their growth.



In our Support pillar

we've funded Dr Jordana McLoone's project to improve the lifelong care of young people diagnosed with poor-prognosis childhood cancers.

"This funding is only possible because of the generosity of our community, whose support allows brilliant researchers to pursue the ideas and innovations that could save young lives."

– Owen Finegan, The Kids' Cancer Project CEO

Following a rigorous, independent two-stage review by The Kids' Cancer Project's Research Advisory Committee, made up of leading Australian and international experts, the five projects were selected for their scientific excellence, innovation and potential to deliver meaningful impact. Supported by strong governance and conflict of interest protocols, the process ensures your donations are invested where they can make the greatest difference.

These grants also reinforce our commitment to collaboration across the childhood cancer research sector. Aligned with the Childhood, Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer Mission launched in May 2026, we are proud to support researchers and institutes across Australia to accelerate discoveries, advance clinical trials, improve supportive care and increase access to emerging therapies.

The Kids' Cancer Project ensures that your donations are invested in the most impactful research projects possible, helping to support new ideas and strengthen our role as a leading voice in the childhood cancer research community.

GROWING OUR IMPACT TOGETHER

As we look to the future, The Kids' Cancer Project will continue to grow its national footprint, strengthen partnerships and create more opportunities for Australians to help fund life-saving childhood cancer research.



Building on what works

We're growing our flagship campaigns including Write a Book in a Day and Better Challenge, reaching more schools, workplaces and regional communities than ever before.



Behind the scenes

We're investing in smarter technology, improved digital experiences and more personalised supporter journeys to make it easier than ever to get involved and make a difference for children with cancer.



Stronger partnerships

We're strengthening relationships with major donors, trusts, foundations and corporate partners, while expanding fundraising events into new states including Tasmania and Victoria.



Powerful stories

We're creating more opportunities for children and families to share their stories, helping others connect, understand the impact, and take action to support life-changing research.

LOOKING AHEAD

From community fundraisers to awareness campaigns, here's what's coming up!

2026

SEPTEMBER 1
BETTER CHALLENGE BEGINS



DECEMBER 3
CHRISTMAS FOR A CURE LUNCH

2027

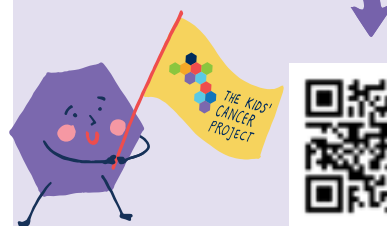
FEBRUARY 15
K'DAY



JUNE 1
WRITE A BOOK IN A DAY BEGINS



SCAN the QR code to get involved and make your impact



“Children often arrive in hospital feeling scared, but the moment they meet their new friend, everything changes.

Seeing that fear turn into a smile is something really special.”

– April, Nursing Manager at
Sutherland Hospital



**Donate a tax-deductible
bear to a child in hospital**

Gift comfort while helping to
fund life-saving research.



The Kids' Cancer Project

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