



Impact Report 2017/18

Variety – the Children’s Charity NSW/ACT



variety
the children's charity



Contents

The Why	3
The How	4
The Numbers	6
Kids Stories	8
How You Helped	12
Partner Thanks	15
What's Next?	18

The Why

All kids deserve a fair go in life, and the chance to reach their full potential.

Some may face challenges because they are sick, disadvantaged or have special needs, and we aim to help them overcome these challenges.

We are all lucky enough to live in Australia, but still we have kids missing out.

We hear stories of families struggling every day – from a boy who had outgrown his wheelchair so much it would tip when he went up an incline like a gutter. Or a girl who waited 12 months for a new walking frame, confined to her wheelchair. And the chronically ill boy who had to travel several hours each week for specialised therapy.

Thanks to our Variety community, the boy received a new wheelchair he feels safe in, the girl can now walk with her frame and the boy with the chronic illness can receive his treatment at home meaning he doesn't have to miss school, his daily pain is reduced and the financial burden on the family has lessened.

These are just three reasons why we do what we do every day. Last year we supported 39,500 kids in NSW/ACT increasing their quality of life, self-esteem, connection to community and decreasing strain on families.

Our community is made up of incredible volunteers, donors, fundraisers and families. Thank you for your part in making sure all kids get a fair go in life and don't miss out on what they need to fit in.



John Dennis
Chairman (Chief Barker)



David Sexton
CEO



**We believe that
all kids deserve
a fair go in life.**

**So we help
kids with these
challenges:**



Sick



Disadvantaged



Special Needs





By delivering the elements of the Variety Kids Support Framework:

GRANTS

We grant a range of things to **provide practical help** to kids and organisations in need.



Equipment Grants



Therapy Grants



Technology Grants



Program Grants



Supplies Grants



Sunshine Coach Grants

SERVICES

We provide services to **support kids & families** that have a child in need.



PROGRAMS

We run programs to **educate & empower** kids in need.

JUST LIKE YOU™
STARTING WITH ART



SCHOLARSHIPS

We give scholarships to **encourage the talents** of kids in need.



EXPERIENCES

We hold events to **engage & bring joy** to kids in need & their families.



To create lasting impact around Australia



Number of Aussie kids
impacted by Variety
this year

111,712

And a better life for the kids of NSW/ACT



We granted:

\$4 million
to help kids
in need

We supported:

more than
200 different
conditions

We impacted:

39,500
kids in
NSW/ACT

But numbers can only tell part of the story...



Variety Heart Scholarships

This year we were able to hand out the most Variety Heart Scholarships ever with 59 talented Aussie kids receiving one. Just one of these kids is Chelsea who has her sights set on being the youngest ever competitor at a Commonwealth Games. She has already broken plenty of records on the track including Australian Country Championship for the 100m sprint, which had stood for 40 years.

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsor, the Grahame Mapp Family Foundation, Chelsea and all of our Variety Heart Scholarship recipients will be able to chase their dreams in the fields of sport, the arts and education.

Individual Grant

Harper is 18 months old and was born with Cerebral Palsy. Unable to stand by herself her family turned to Variety to grant Harper a stander.

The stander helps her to gain more strength in her legs and core, and also means she can stand up to play with her older sister rather than having to lay on the floor.

"Only having one parent work meant we couldn't provide the equipment for her, it's amazing that Variety could grant this to us. I don't know the words to explain what this means to us... just amazing. With this equipment Harper can stand and play with her sister now which is fantastic." Harper's mum said.





Variety Sunshine Coach

The students of Mumbil Public School live in an isolated town, 100km outside of Dubbo. To be able to take part in activities outside of school, such as sporting carnivals and excursions, teachers were using their personal vehicles to transport the kids. Thanks to the Variety community we were able to grant the school a Sunshine Coach so the kids don't miss out on educational experiences.

"The Variety Sunshine Coach has opened up so many opportunities to safely give our students more worldly experiences and taken pressure off our isolated community," School Principal Rebecca Hutchings said.

Rare Care Service

Wyatt is four and loves playing outside and watching his favourite shows. He was diagnosed recently with a rare metabolic condition called MPS II (Hunter Syndrome) autism, global developmental delay, moderate-severe hearing loss and severe sleep apnoea. Wyatt's mum is a single parent, and has no immediate family support to help her. The family was referred to the Variety Rare Care Service and supported by a Case Manager to help find specialised daycare and apply for Variety grants for feeds, nappies and equipment. This support has taken away some of the financial and emotional stress on the family, allowing Wyatt more time to enjoy being a kid.





Every Chance to Play

Kids in the ACT now have Every Chance to Play with Variety joining forces with the charity. Every Chance to Play was founded in 2017 by a group of Canberrans who had a mission to make junior sport accessible to all kids, including those from low-income households. The new Variety Every Chance to Play Grant will help ACT kids living with financial hardship enjoy the physical, social and community benefits of junior sport by paying sport registration fees. Kids in NSW facing financial hardship can apply for the government's Active Kids grant to make sure they don't miss out.

Variety Kids Xmas Parties

Thousands of kids enjoyed the magic of Christmas at our two Variety Kids Xmas Parties. One in Sydney run by the Ladies of Variety and one in Newcastle put together by a group of volunteers. The parties allow kids who may otherwise go without to enjoy a day of fun, festivity and telling Santa exactly what they want for Christmas. There is a range of inclusive activities from face-painting to craft, rides and different sports to play. The Variety Kids Xmas Parties are a wonderful day for our kids to enjoy, and only made possible because of the generosity of our community.





Variety Livvi's Place

Variety – the Children's Charity NSW/ACT and Touched by Olivia announced a new partnership that will ensure more Aussies have access to inclusive playspaces. With a shared vision of delivering special places that change the way our community plays, Variety will collaborate with communities, councils and developers to build Variety Livvi's Place playspaces around Australia, so no one misses out on the chance to play. The first one was opened in Bankstown with additional ones already planned in Taree, Glenfield, Blacktown and Young.

Just Like You

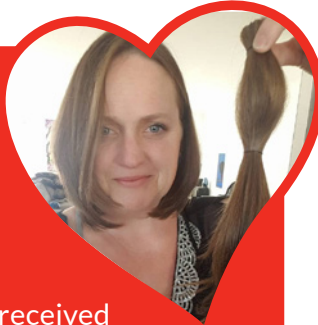
Variety's Just Like You program is a disability awareness workshop facilitated through schools. It aims to build understanding, acceptance and inclusion of those living with a disability. This year we were able to expand the program thanks to support from FGX. This meant schools in Newcastle, the Central Coast and ACT as well as Sydney could take part. More than 14,150 kids at 100+ schools participated, helping Aussie kids to understand that people with disabilities are just like them. We received lots of wonderful feedback such as kids who have been included in activities like birthday parties for the first time.



How you helped

Hair with Heart

This year Variety received our 20,000th hair donation, that's over 7km of hair. Thanks to the 6,264 amazing people we received hair from, the 1,192 who fundraised in support of their big chop, and the 27,408 generous family and friends who supported them by donating, Hair with Heart raised \$1.586 million this year to help Aussie kids in need.



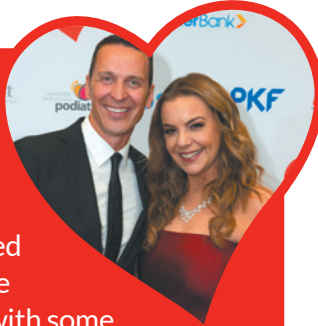
Woolworths Supermarkets

This year, Woolies staff have continued to show incredible commitment to Variety through in-store fundraising and awareness activities; including a state-wide raffle, token campaigns, Fresh Community Fairs and the Woolworths Charity Ball. The incredible fundraising efforts from store staff all across NSW and ACT, and the tremendous support across the whole organisation has helped raise over \$1.5 million for Variety kids.



Variety of Chefs

A sold-out Variety of Chefs was held at Newcastle City Hall with 300 guests dressed up for a night of fun and fine food. The evening started with some beautiful singing from Waratah Public School choir, and entertainment throughout the night from Trevor Ashley and DJ band Sincopa. There was also plenty of fundraising happening with \$100,000 raised for a new inclusive playground at Waratah Public School.



Channel Nine

Channel Nine has come on board to support Variety by providing free advertising both on TV and digital ads. The whole Nine team has gotten behind Variety, also providing prizes for events, talent to MC, and volunteers. With the support of Nine, Variety will be able to reach more families in need to provide them with support and spread the word about the great work our community does.



How you helped

City of Sydney

City of Sydney named Variety – the Children’s Charity NSW/ACT as their charity of choice for Christmas. A wonderful opportunity to raise awareness of Variety throughout the community and also to raise funds to help kids in need. Variety was involved in the massive city Christmas concerts as well as five village concerts around Sydney. Our Variety Kids Choir also belted out some Christmas classics in Pitt St Mall to the delight of shoppers.



G.J. Gardner Homes

The generosity of G.J. Gardner Homes has continued this year with the fourth G.J. Gardner Variety Freedom House beginning construction in the Shoalhaven. With franchise owners like Sean Vickery and Nathan Fay who are building their 2nd Freedom House, we are able to give back to kids in need. G.J. Gardner Homes has raised almost \$1 million for Variety since the partnership started in 2014.



4WD Adventure

The Variety 4WD Adventure 2018 saw 30 big hearted crews travel through NSW, QLD and SA to help Aussie kids in need. Along the way the adventurers visited schools, granting items such as sports equipment and seating. Between stops they took their 4WD vehicles off the bitumen and onto bush tracks, sand dunes, fire trails and country dirt roads. They raised an incredible \$174,000 for Variety to help Aussie kids in need.



Brydens Lawyers

Brydens Lawyers support of Variety has continued with Naming Rights of the B to B Bash for the third year and continuing into 2019. Brydens has gone above and beyond this year with pro-bono legal work, providing volunteers for Ice Skating and the Kids Xmas Party as well as Principal Lee Hagipantelis travelling all the way to Alice Springs to present awards at the final Bash night. They are truly passionate about helping kids in need.



How you helped

Spin 4 Kids

Almost 400 people took on a gruelling six hour spin bike challenge to raise funds for Variety – the Children's Charity. The day was electric, with strobe lighting, pumping music and incredible instructors who turned grimaces into smiles. There were plenty of teams dressed up from superheroes to hippies, adding plenty of colour to the day. A huge \$70,000 was raised to help Aussie kids in need.



Variety NSW Bash

The biggest ever Variety NSW Bash was held in 2018 with 106 cars raising a record-breaking \$1.2m for Aussie kids. An amazing achievement made possible by the generosity of all the Bashers, volunteers and the towns we visited. We also need to thank our generous major sponsor AHA for supporting the NSW Bash since 2012 and everything they do to support kids in need.



Variety Postie Bike Dash

Despite a week of rain, nothing could dampen the spirits of the Variety Postie Bike Dash entrants in 2017. An incredible \$125,000 was raised by the 40 riders and the event sponsors, First National Real Estate, Tamex Transport and Australia Post. A big thank you to everyone involved who took on the back roads of Country NSW and helped to give Aussie kids in need a fair go.



Variety Brydens Lawyers B to B Bash

The Variety Brydens Lawyers B to B Bash 2018 completed its 4,396km journey through the Aussie outback, with our Bashers raising over \$1.7m to help Aussie kids in need. The Variety Bashers drove 'the miles for the smiles' and granted \$80,000 worth of equipment and resources to schools. Big thanks to all our Bashers and our naming rights sponsor Brydens Lawyers.



Thank you to all our Major Partners



De Lambert
Largesse



G.J. Gardner. HOMES



Grahame
MAPP Family
Foundation



The Lawrence
Family



Thank you to all our Valued Partners

10,000 Hours	HIT FM	Port of Newcastle
AirRoad Pty Ltd	The HOYTS Group	Prime Media Group
Altis	iSentia	Pro Collect Pty Ltd
Australian Traffic Network	Justin North and Concept Hospitality	Ray White Double Bay
Bartercard	Justin Worboys Photography	RJ Auctions
Bulldogs Leagues Club Ltd	Kwik Kopy Chatswood	Sage
Channel Nine	Lions Club of Bomaderry	SAAB Australia
City of Sydney	Morelife Films	St Mary's Leagues Club
Combined Management Consultants	Newcastle Coal Infrastructure Group	Sundown Pastoral Co.
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	Newcastle Podiatry Family and Sports	Tamex Transport
Crown Equipment Pty Ltd	News Corp	The Shirley Ward Foundation
Cullos Pty Ltd	Omega Home Services	Toshiba (Australia) Pty Limited
Dee Vine Estate Wine	Once A Knight Old Boys Incorporated	Total Steel of Australia Pty Ltd
Ernst & Young	Osmen	TyreRight
First National Real Estate	Pacific Resort Hotel Group	Universal LED Lighting
Flannery Foundation	Pfizer	Venues NSW
Greater Bank	Pickles Auctions	Volvo Group Australia
HE Burns & Sons		Wilson Asset Management
		Your Brand Unleashed

Thank you to our Volunteers

At Variety we have a community of big-hearted volunteers who donate their time and skills. They work on everything from office tasks to events and supporting our kids. They come from all walks of life but all have one thing in common – they believe all kids deserve a fair go.

Last year our volunteers put in almost 5,000 hours ensuring our support can get to where it's needed most – the kids. Thank you to our volunteers and committees who give so much to Variety and to kids in need.

- Variety – the Children's Charity (NSW/ACT) Board
- Finance & Audit Committee
- Kids Support Governance Committee
- Risk & Governance Committee
- Kids Support Grants Sub-Committee
- Ladies of Variety
- Motoring Events Committee
- Newcastle Regional Committee
- Variety Children's Society of University of Sydney
- Variety Children's Society of UNSW
- Variety Every Chance To Play Sub-Committee
- Variety Heart Scholarships Sub-Committee
- Young Variety



What's Next?

It takes a community to raise a child and we are looking forward to another exciting year of growth in our Variety community so we can help more Aussie kids in need. There are a number of key projects and initiatives that will feature including:

- ♥ Creation, communication and implementation of the 2019-2021 Strategic Plan
- ♥ Driving revenue growth with increased diversification to ensure financial stability and sustainability
- ♥ Embedding inclusive play in to the organisation and expanding the delivery of Variety Livvi's Places
- ♥ Implementing our first national brand campaign to increase awareness of Variety for funders, families and referrers
- ♥ Increasing our social outcomes measurement to ensure we are meeting the needs of kids and organisations that we serve

We are so grateful for the support we received from so many to deliver on our vision and mission. We look forward to your continued support to ensure all kids get a fair go.



EQUALITY COMMUNITY ACTION JOY





W variety.org.au/nsw

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 VarietyNSWACT

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 [variety_nswact](https://www.linkedin.com/company/variety_nswact)

