



**2024-25**

# **Impact Report**

Variety – the Children's Charity NSW/ACT





## OUR VISION

**A world where every child can thrive, belong, and reach their full potential, regardless of disability or circumstance.**

## OUR MISSION

**To empower children in Australia who are sick, experiencing disadvantage or living with a disability to live without limits.**



### Acknowledgement of Country

Variety - the Children's Charity NSW/ACT acknowledges and pays respect to the Traditional Custodians of the land and waters where we live, work and travel through. We value their cultures, identities, and continuing connection to country, waters, kin, and community. We pay our respects to Elders past and present for their role in nurturing children on this land for generations.

Variety – the Children's Charity NSW/ACT is committed to actively participating in Australia's journey to reconciliation and acknowledging our country's history. We are continuing our reconciliation journey through the implementation of our Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). The RAP enables us to deepen our understanding and respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures and provides a framework to guide a more informed and culturally respectful way of working alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and communities.

**DISCOVER MORE ABOUT OUR REFLECT RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN:**

[variety.org.au/nsw/about/reconciliation-action-plan](https://variety.org.au/nsw/about/reconciliation-action-plan).







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## Chair Message

2025 was not only a successful year but also a truly historic one, marking the 50th anniversary of Variety in Australia.

Over the past five decades, our incredible Variety family has achieved something extraordinary. Together, we have raised more than \$700 million and supported two million children who are sick, experiencing disadvantage or living with a disability.

As we celebrate this milestone, it's fitting to reflect on our beginnings.

Founded in 1975 with deep roots in the entertainment industry, Variety's first Chair was Australian icon, Paul Hogan AM. That same year, His Majesty, King Charles III (then HRH Prince Charles, Prince of Wales) became our first Australian patron – a role he continues to hold today.

In 1976, Variety presented its first-ever Sunshine Coach - a specialised children's ambulance - to the Prince of Wales Children's Hospital, signalling the start of a proud tradition of life-changing support for Australian families.

For half a century, Variety has worked tirelessly to provide children with access to mobility equipment, therapy, medical care, and educational opportunities. This would not have been possible without the generosity of our donors, fundraisers, and corporate partners.

I am deeply grateful for this enduring support and immensely proud of the difference it has made to generations of Australian families. From funding essential equipment to creating inclusive opportunities, our vision remains clear - to ensure every child can thrive, belong, and reach their full potential, regardless of disability or circumstance.

In April, Variety Australia celebrated these achievements with a reception at Government House, Sydney. Hosted by Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, Governor of New South Wales, the event honoured the dedication and passion that have defined Variety's story.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to our dedicated Board and the passionate Variety NSW/ACT team for their professionalism and heart in delivering these meaningful outcomes.

As we look to the next 50 years, I encourage everyone to join us - whether through fundraising, donations, or volunteering – and help write the next chapter in our shared legacy of hope and a brighter future for children in need.

Greg Lewis  
Variety NSW/ACT Chair



## CEO Message

Each year at Variety brings new challenges, opportunities, and moments of impact – and 2025 was no exception.

In August, the Australian Government announced the new ‘Thriving Kids’ program for children living with autism. Like many, we await further details to understand how this initiative will differ from the National Disability Insurance Scheme and what it will mean for families who have long advocated for better support.

Against this backdrop, Variety was proud to be recognised at the Third Sector Awards for our Variety Flying Start Paediatric Service - a program that delivers critical assessments and diagnoses for children across Western NSW who are living with a range of disabilities, including ADHD and autism. The award shines a light on the ongoing inequity faced by families in remote and regional areas. It belongs to every partner, supporter, team member, and family who helps make this essential work possible.

I’m continually inspired by how far our community will go to make a difference - from spending hours on a spin bike, days in a Bash car, or helping bring festive joy at our Variety Xmas parties. The spirit of compassion and commitment truly defines who we are.

One of my personal highlights has been seeing early growth from the implementation of new fundraising initiatives as we seek to broaden Variety’s fundraising channels. We have established the right conditions and acquired the necessary skills to nurture new fundraising opportunities to continue our mission of empowering children. There is no gift more generous than to leave a bequest for future generations and I have been moved by the generosity of our supporter community to engage in these conversations. It serves as a powerful reminder of the collective strength of people united by purpose and passion.

This year also saw 92 Variety Heart Scholarships valued at \$327,000 awarded to young people excelling in sports and the arts. Beyond financial support, these scholarships help build confidence and self-belief – inspiring remarkable young people to pursue their dreams.

We are privileged to walk beside them, and all our grant recipients and families, in their journeys. Every milestone reached is a testament to the generosity of our supporters, whose belief in our mission ensures every child is empowered to live without limits.

Tony Warner  
Variety NSW/ACT CEO

# What We Do

## 6. OUR VISION



To create a world where every child can thrive, belong, and reach their full potential, regardless of disability or circumstance.

## 5. THE DIFFERENCE WE CREATE



- ★ A better quality of life for children and their families.
- ★ More opportunities for children to succeed and thrive.
- ★ Stronger, more inclusive communities.
- ★ A deeper understanding of all children's needs, regardless of ability or background.
- ★ A greater sense of belonging and social connection.

## 4. WHAT IT MEANS FOR KIDS

Giving kids the freedom to be independent, the support to reach their full potential, and the resources to meet their physical, mental, and emotional needs.



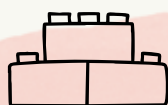
## 3. HOW WE HELP

Through grants, scholarships, programs, and experiences we:

- ★ Open up access to essential services, equipment, and education.
- ★ Help kids take part at home, in school, and in the community.
- ★ Improve health and wellbeing.
- ★ Ease financial pressure on families.



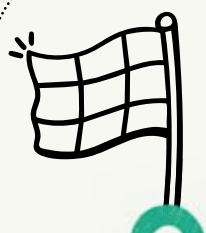
## 2. WHO MAKES IT POSSIBLE



We're powered by a strong community of families, schools, and local groups - alongside the generosity of volunteers, fundraisers, and sponsors. With the support of professionals, partners, and our dedicated teams, we create lasting impact for kids.

## 1. WHY WE ARE HERE

Across Australia, too many children are being left behind. Systems are stretched and often exclude those who need help most. Variety steps in to make sure every child has the chance to live without limits.





# Our **Impact**

Thanks to your support in FY2025,  
we impacted

**184,299** children across Australia

and **45,168** children in NSW/ACT.



**Total FY2025 Commitment - \$1.95 Million**

## IMPACT BY PROGRAM



**CARE**  
**1092 KIDS**

Providing essential support to  
meet the physical, mental, and  
emotional needs of children.



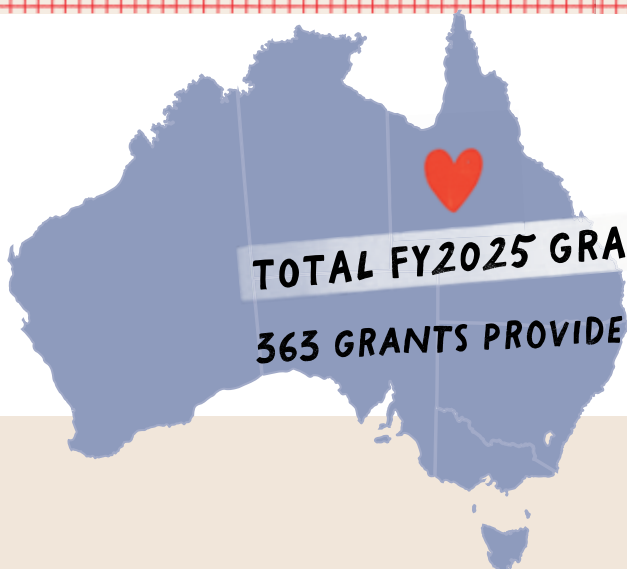
**FUTURE**  
**40,822 KIDS**

Removing barriers to help  
children grow, succeed, and  
reach their full potential.



**FREEDOM**  
**3254 KIDS**

Delivering mobility devices  
and experiences to empower  
children to thrive.



**TOTAL FY2025 GRANTS**

**363 GRANTS PROVIDED TO CHILDREN ACROSS AUSTRALIA**



# How We Help – Care

The Variety Care Program is designed to address the physical, mental, and emotional needs of children. By providing comprehensive support ranging from critical medical assistance to therapeutic intervention, the program ensures that every child receives the necessary care, effectively filling systemic gaps where existing support structures are insufficient.

The Variety Flying Start Paediatric Service, with the support of our program partner Marathon Health, is connecting vulnerable children in Western NSW with an experienced paediatrician through regular charter flights, providing families with access to a paediatric clinic in their safe and trusted local community. This fully integrated healthcare model provides the paediatrician with comprehensive information to fast-track care and diagnosis. A multidisciplinary team supports each visit, ensuring ongoing support and helping families unlock crucial assistance like the NDIS.

This year, we funded 16 flights enabling the Variety Allied Health Outreach Clinics to deliver 264 individual therapy sessions across remote communities including Bourke, Brewarrina, Walgett and Lightning Ridge, along with two Paediatric Clinics in Lightning Ridge and Walgett. These clinics brought essential health care closer to home for 67 children who would otherwise face long waitlists, costly and time-consuming travel, and limited specialist support in their communities.





Thanks to this outreach model, children were not just seen once, they were connected into a pathway of care that supports their long-term development, wellbeing, and independence. Families repeatedly shared that being able to access specialists locally relieved both financial pressure and emotional stress, allowing their children to thrive without leaving their community.

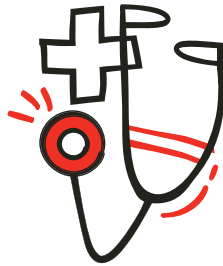
In August, the program's success was acknowledged with the Collaboration Excellence Award at the Third Sector Awards, the largest and most prestigious awards ceremony recognising excellence within the Not-for-Profit sector. A huge thank you to everyone who voted for Variety and to Third Sector for this honour.

The Variety Therapy Grant offers vital financial assistance to children and families facing difficulty accessing clinicians due to financial hardship or NDIS ineligibility. This support is essential for development, improving quality of life, mental health, and school

participation. 98 therapy grants were provided in 2025 for speech therapy, occupational therapy, and psychology.

For over a decade, Variety has provided specialised wigs to children with permanent hair loss due to conditions like alopecia. Since one wig can cost up to \$6,000 and needs replacement, the cost is often prohibitive. By removing this financial barrier, we address the profound psychological effects of hair loss during childhood and adolescence.

Finally, the Variety Ward at The Children's Hospital at Westmead specialises in providing care to newborns and children requiring isolation. Here, we provide nourishing food packs for families who may be arriving after-hours and in moments of crisis. Nursing staff see every day how much this support means during the most difficult times – helping parents stay close to their children and offering comfort, connection, and care thanks to our generous donors and fundraisers.



## CARE PROGRAM FY2025 Impact



**106  
GRANTS  
PROVIDED**

**1092  
CHILDREN  
IMPACTED**

Therapy Grants  
**98 Impacted**

Wig Grants  
**8 Impacted**

Flying Start  
Paediatric Service  
**67 Impacted**

Variety Ward  
Westmead  
**919 Impacted**

"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



## 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









# How We Help

## – Future

Variety is committed to equipping children for long-term success by focusing on education, skills development, and community inclusion. By providing access to diverse resources and experiences, we create opportunities that enable children to grow, thrive, and contribute to a more inclusive future.

Young people living in Out-of-Home Care, such as foster, kinship or residential care, often face unique and complex challenges. Many have experienced disrupted schooling, instability, and limited access to consistent health and wellbeing support. The Boost and Multi-Year Grants, funded by the Andrew Pratten Charitable Trust, help change that story by providing learning equipment, wellbeing resources, and opportunities to explore career and creative pathways. By removing barriers, the program builds confidence, independence, and a sense of belonging—empowering young people to achieve their goals and thrive at school and in their community.

The Variety Heart Scholarship program, sponsored by the Grahame Mapp Family Foundation, is designed to assist talented students living with a disability, chronic illness, or financial hardship. The Scholarship facilitates the pursuit of their potential, with 96% of respondents reporting an improvement in their skills and performance in their chosen field.


\$327,000 in Variety Heart Scholarships were awarded to 92 children across NSW and the ACT in 2025. This year marked an incredible milestone for the program which has granted 525 scholarships valued at more than \$2 million since 2018.

Additionally, Variety provides a range of accessible annual events, such as our Variety Heart Scholarship Presentation evening and our Kids Xmas Parties, to ensure children, regardless of ability or background, can experience essential community joy and recognition. More than 2000 children attended our Kids Xmas parties in 2025.

Just Like You (JLY) is an innovative school-based program for students in Years 1 to 8 that fosters understanding, acceptance, and inclusion of people with a disability. It comprehensively addresses both visible and hidden disabilities, ensuring students appreciate the full spectrum of diversity. This year, Just Like You facilitators delivered workshops to more than 38,000 students at 136 schools across NSW and the ACT.


Our thanks to Waratah Education Foundation, Matana Foundation, and CommBank Staff Foundation for generously supporting this program.

**Schools can find out more at [justlikeyou.org.au](https://justlikeyou.org.au) or call the JLY Team on 1800 047 349.**



*"I had the privilege of attending a Just Like You workshop at a local school. I was very impressed with the content of the program and the delivery from a lived experience facilitator. The students were very engaged and wanted to share their own circumstances in a safe environment. I then championed my daughter's school to run this workshop, which they did and equally were very impressed."*

Geraldine Campbell,  
Waratah Education Foundation







## FUTURE PROGRAM FY2025 Impact



**208  
GRANTS  
PROVIDED**

**40,822  
CHILDREN  
IMPACTED**

Just Like You  
**38,331  
Impacted**

OOHC Multi  
Year Grants  
**22 Impacted**

OOHC  
Boost Grants  
**94 Impacted**

Variety Heart  
Scholarships (VHS)  
**92 Impacted**

Sydney  
Xmas Party  
**986 Impacted**

Newcastle  
Xmas Party  
**1032 Impacted**

VHS Presentation  
Evening  
**45 Impacted**

Dreamtime  
Zoo Event  
**220 Impacted**

*"Thank you for your support! Our daughter has huge dreams, and your support has helped her move closer to fulfilling them! Any interaction I have had with Variety has been kind, caring, and well managed. Thanks for a fantastic experience."*

*Parent, VHS Recipient*





## LAYLA'S STORY

Cranebrook's Layla Sharp, who lives with cerebral palsy and vision impairment, first received a Variety Heart Scholarship in 2018 as a determined 10-year-old with a big dream - to represent Australia.

Now 17, Layla is the Australian T38 800m record holder and the 2024 NSW Para Women's 400m champion, having received over \$30,000 in support from Variety since her journey began.

This year, Layla achieved her lifelong goal by qualifying for the World Para Athletics Championships in New Delhi, where she competed in the 200m and 400m events. She placed 8th in the world for the 400m and 11th for the 200m, an outstanding debut on the international stage.

Focused and ambitious, Layla is now refining her race strategy and chasing new goals - the Commonwealth Games and the Paralympics.

"My Variety Heart Scholarships have meant the world to me," Layla said. "They've 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."



# How We Help

## – *Freedom*

Variety is dedicated to providing children experiencing disadvantage with the essential tools required to navigate their world independently. Through access to adaptive mobility devices and social opportunities, we empower children to thrive, facilitating their ability to play, learn, and experience the fundamental joys of childhood.

The Variety Mobility Equipment Grant provides crucial, life-changing assistance to families struggling to access specialist disability equipment. This equipment drives improvements in children's physical development and independence, significantly increasing their participation in family activities and engagement within their community, thereby fostering inclusion at home, school, and within society.

In addition to this, the Variety Bikes for Kids program provides bicycles - gifted to Variety - to school communities facing low socio-economic barriers, offering practical support that enhances children's engagement and independence. In 2025, we delivered 36 bikes to two schools – Doonside Public School and Yeoval Public School. Our thanks to Storage Works Artarmon who provided storage of the bikes and Tamex Transport who delivered the bikes at no cost.

Our Variety Sunshine Coach program provides vital transportation for students to access educational, sporting, and community activities. While no new Sunshine Coaches were granted this year, we were delighted to deliver five coaches, granted over the

past two years, to Rutherford Technology High School, Mulyan Public School, Kalinda School, Yandelora School and Narrabri Public School. Many thanks to Woolworths and Toshiba for supporting this crucial program.

Our motoring events directly contribute to remote and regional communities via the Motoring Event Grant. During our visits in FY2025, we delivered 39 grants to schools and community groups for a range of items – from educational aids and sporting equipment to library resources, with each grant specifically tailored to their needs. Each overnight stop also boosts local tourism with up to \$70,000 injected into remote towns through food, fuel and accommodation costs.

Lastly, the Variety Community Grant delivers meaningful assistance packages to local groups making a difference. These grants remove practical barriers, offering support for essential needs such as funding for insulin pumps or accommodation for sporting groups traveling interstate, thereby creating life-changing opportunities for children experiencing disadvantage.







*"Inclusion is everything. When your child can't join in, they do feel different. The Mobility Equipment Grant we received from Variety for the Hippocampe all-terrain beach wheelchair has opened up Charli's world. It gives her freedom and fun with her friends and her family. That's life-changing."*

Cassandra, Charli's Mum





## FREEDOM PROGRAM FY2025 Impact



**49  
GRANTS  
PROVIDED**

**3254  
CHILDREN  
IMPACTED**

Motoring Event  
Grants  
**3184 Impacted**

Community  
Grants  
**28 Impacted**

Mobility  
Grants  
**6 Impacted**

Bike  
Grants  
**36 Impacted**



*"The bikes funded by Variety encourage physical activity, social interaction, and independence among our students. This not only supports their physical health but also fosters important life skills such as teamwork, confidence, and road safety awareness. Variety's ongoing dedication to supporting schools like ours helps build stronger, healthier, and more connected school communities where every student can thrive."*

*Priya Singh, Vice Principal, Doonside Public School*



## CALE'S STORY

Sixteen-year-old Cale is an adventurous, music-loving teen who's faced life with determination since being diagnosed with cerebral palsy just before his first birthday. His parents sold their home in Far North Queensland and moved to Sydney to access the therapies and support he needed. Over the years, they adapted their home for accessibility and, with help from Variety, received a manual wheelchair that improved Cale's mobility.

But their biggest dream was to share their love of the outdoors - to ride and explore together as a family. Living near mountain bike trails in Sydney's Sutherland Shire, they longed for a way Cale could join them. After being twice denied NDIS funding for an Adaptive Mountain Bike, costing over \$30,000, the family turned to Variety.

Thanks to a Variety Mobility Equipment Grant, Cale finally received his own Adaptive Mountain Bike, opening a whole new world of independence and adventure. Now he rides alongside his family and uses the bike with his support worker.

"This bike has changed Cale's life," says his mum, Janine. "He's no longer on the sidelines - he's free, confident, and doing what he loves. Variety gave him the chance to truly belong."





# How **You** Helped

At Variety, we're deeply grateful for the incredible generosity of our donors and fundraisers throughout the year. Whether you've taken part in an event, made a monthly donation or supported our Tax or Christmas appeals - thank you. It's through your collective commitment that we're able to deliver crucial grants, programs, and experiences to the children and families who need them most.

## **SPIN 4 KIDS**

Variety Spin 4 Kids Barangaroo was a phenomenal success, raising over \$147,000 across two action-packed days at International Towers Barangaroo, hosted by KPMG.

Day one saw KPMG staff hit the bikes with incredible energy, fundraising with passion and purpose. Day two brought together a powerhouse of corporate teams from across Barangaroo and the city, all spinning, cheering, and digging deep to support kids in need.

The atmosphere was electric, with teams riding in shifts and rallying around a shared goal. Our thanks for the incredible generosity of our participants,

donors, and the unwavering support from KPMG, and International Towers Barangaroo.

The 9th Newcastle Spin 4 Kids was held at the beautiful Fort Scratchley, raising more than \$50,000. This event is not possible without the ongoing support of Newcastle Coal Infrastructure Group, NUsport, ASN Charlestown & Acrobat Removals. Not to forget the Spin Master himself and MC extraordinaire, Mike Wilkins.

**If your workplace would like to learn more about Spin 4 Kids, contact [events@varietynsw.org.au](mailto:events@varietynsw.org.au).**







## VARIETY LONG LUNCH

Variety supporters, friends, and family came together in May for a truly special edition of the Variety Long Lunch that raised over \$102,000 to support kids in need.

Held in celebration of the extraordinary Penny Docherty, the event was not only a tribute to her remarkable life and unwavering dedication to Variety, but also a vibrant reunion of the community she helped build.

The afternoon was hosted by Margaret Pomeranz AM and Penny Mapp, whose warmth and charm as MCs kept spirits high and the energy flowing. A standout moment was the electric live auction and wish list. One of the most touching highlights came when a cherished piece of Variety Bash memorabilia, generously donated by David Docherty, was auctioned.



This unforgettable day would not have been possible without the dedication of the Variety Long Lunch Committee. Our heartfelt thanks go to David Docherty, Meg Williamson, Beth Jackson, Peter Hebbes, and Jack Cannons for their passion, time, and support in bringing it all to life.

## HAIR WITH HEART

Every year, thousands of generous Australians take part in Variety's Hair with Heart program, showing that even the smallest act of kindness can make a life-changing difference. By cutting, colouring, or shaving their hair, supporters raise vital funds to provide medical-grade wigs for children who have lost their hair due to alopecia, cancer, trichotillomania, and other medical conditions.

The impact of this generosity is profound. A custom-made medical wig can cost around \$6,000 and typically lasts just 18 months to two years as a child's head grows. This places it well beyond the reach of many families. It can take up to 20 ponytails to create a single wig, meaning this is a true team effort of compassion in action.

Thanks to the incredible commitment of Hair with Heart supporters, more than 260 children across Australia have received wigs since 2018. This year, Hair Heroes from all over Australia chopped their locks, shaved their head, or coloured their hair, raising more than \$610,000 and donating more than 2,000 ponytails to make more wigs possible.

Every dollar raised helps turn anxiety into assurance and gives a child the priceless gift of choice and confidence. Because it's not just about hair – it's about heart.

**Take the Hair with Heart challenge! Chop, colour or shave your hair and ask your family, school or workplace to join you. Find out more - [hairwithheart.variety.org.au](https://hairwithheart.variety.org.au).**



**\$613,535**  
**FUNDS RAISED**  
**ACROSS AUSTRALIA**



**\$212,102**  
**FUNDS RAISED**  
**ACROSS NSW/ACT**

**FIND  
OUT  
MORE!**





## MOTORING EVENTS

Variety's iconic motoring events once again hit the road this year, combining adventure, camaraderie, and compassion to create brighter futures for kids in need.

Across the Postie Bike Dash, 4WD Adventure, Adventure Ride, NSW Bash and B to B Bash, our incredible community of participants, sponsors, and volunteers raised more than \$3.5 million to support children who are sick, experiencing disadvantage or living with a disability.

Together, our motoring community travelled through some of Australia's most remote and breathtaking landscapes – from the rugged tracks of the Blue Mountains and Abercrombie National Park to the open roads of regional New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia.

Along the way, our 725 motoring event participants travelled to 39 remote and regional schools and community groups delivering more than \$174,000 in grants for inclusive classrooms and playground equipment.

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, joy, and opportunity to children across Australia.

JOIN A VARIETY  
MOTORING  
EVENT IN 2026







**THE 2025 VARIETY MINI POSTIE BIKE DASH TOOK 24 PARTICIPANTS ON A FUN TWO-DAY EVENT THROUGH THE FORESTS OF THE NSW MID NORTH COAST IN AUGUST, RAISING \$3000 TO HELP KIDS THRIVE.**

## 2024 VARIETY POSTIE BIKE DASH

The 2024 Variety Postie Bike Dash saw 91 Dashers travel more than 1300 kilometres across regional New South Wales and Victoria, raising an incredible \$371,000 to support kids in need. Over six action-packed days, our Dashers visited seven schools and community groups, hand-delivering more than \$33,000 in grants for vital learning tools, sports gear, and creative resources.

The journey began in Yass, where the Dashers were cheered on by the Yass Football Club and presented a grant for new playing jerseys. Breakfast the next day was at Holbrook Public School who received a grant for a projector and Bluetooth technology before the convoy rolled into Wangaratta.

At Bright P-12 College, Dashers enjoyed breakfast with the students and delivered a grant for art supplies and hiking packs, before stopping at Corowa Public School to deliver a grant for outdoor musical instruments.

The following day featured a school visit to North Wagga Public School who received a grant for adjustable flexi stools, a calming canoe and basketball hoop. Back on the road, Dashers made their way to Ardlethan Central School for some fun and games over lunchtime, not to mention a grant for woodworking and science equipment to ensure students can engage in all classes.

A visit to Cootamundra School rounded off the week with a grant for therapy pods and ukeleles before the Dashers closed the loop and headed back to Yass.

A heartfelt thank you to our generous sponsors — First National Real Estate, Tamex Transport, and Australia Post — for their ongoing support of the Variety Postie Bike Dash.







## 2025 VARIETY 4WD ADVENTURE

2025 marked an incredible 20 years of the Variety 4WD Adventure and we celebrated with not one but two epic, seven-day expeditions through six awe-inspiring National Parks.

The events began in the beauty of Malua Bay and featured stunning river crossings and demanding terrain that called for intricate driving techniques along rugged off-road tracks through Deua, Brindabella, Blue Mountains, Abercrombie River, Turon and Marrangaroo National Parks, before finishing in Katoomba.

In the 20-year history of the event, more than \$3 million has been raised with more than 400 cars and almost 1000 entrants coming together to make friends and make a difference in the lives of families and kids in need.

This year was once again a success with 98 amazing Adventurers raising over \$370,000 across both events.

In addition to raising funds and exploring the stunning backroads, our Adventurers also helped to deliver more than \$28,000 in grants to six schools across NSW and the ACT.

The students at these schools are now enjoying a range of new resources from STEM equipment and football goals to literacy packs, musical instruments, and craft kits.

A huge thank you to our Adventurers, volunteers, sponsors, and winners — together, you've made an extraordinary difference!



## 2025 VARIETY NSW BASH

The 2025 Variety NSW Bash saw 219 entrants and 31 official volunteers travel more than 3000 kilometres across regional NSW, all with one powerful goal in mind – supporting kids in need.

Sadly, the event didn't conclude exactly as planned given the extreme rainfall which caused major flooding in the Hunter and Mid North Coast regions. We are deeply grateful for everyone's understanding and cooperation which helped us to prioritise the safety of our motoring participants and the wider community.

Despite the challenges, together we raised \$1.1 million and delivered grants valued at more than \$46,000 to ten schools and community groups in remote and regional communities.

Some absolutely heartwarming highlights included surprising students at Yeoval Public School with

IN APRIL, 63 BASHERS ACROSS 24 CARS SPENT THE WEEKEND EXPLORING THE BEAUTIFUL SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS ON THE 2025 VARIETY MINI BASH. TOGETHER THEY RAISED OVER \$9000 FOR VARIETY – A GREAT EFFORT!

brand new bikes for their bike education program. Bashers had the honour of presenting a cheque for sensory and play equipment, alongside a much-needed Sunshine Coach to Kalinda School in Griffith, providing access to the great learning opportunities the community has to offer.

The NSW Bash is truly a community effort and is made possible through the tireless fundraising, boundless passion, and dedication of our major supporters. We're incredibly grateful to Daracon Group, Woolworths, AHA NSW, Resqmed, Camden Hire, and Pivotel. Their commitment not only helps us create an unforgettable experience but also allows us to support even more children and communities in need.



Darren King from Team Taree was on the 2025 Variety NSW Bash when he learnt his hometown was devastated by the worst flooding in history. Yet, even while facing heartbreak from afar, he stayed the course.

"Being surrounded by our Variety Family made things bearable and really drove home the reason we were there in the first place. Seeing the direct impact – from mobility equipment to educational support – you realise you're not just raising money; you're changing lives," said Darren.

Team Taree reminds us that fundraising isn't just about dollars; it's about community connection.

The team offers this advice for aspiring fundraisers:

"Be genuine. Share your 'why'. You don't need to have the fanciest event or the biggest network – just start where you are and speak from the heart. Every raffle ticket, every sausage sizzle, every donation counts."







## 2025 VARIETY B TO B BASH

In recognition of the 50th anniversary of Variety in Australia, the 2025 B to B Bash became part of a 'National Bash' celebration – with Bashers from across the country coming together in South Australia.

Departing from Bomaderry in August, our 230 Bashers wound their way through the rugged Australian outback bringing colour and cheer to remote communities before uniting with more than 1500 entrants and 650 cars that had travelled to Adelaide for the first National Variety Bash in a decade.

Over 11 days, our incredible Bashers travelled more than 3600km, raised more than \$1.53 million and delivered 13 grants valued at more than \$65,000 to schools and community groups in need.

This monumental fundraising effort is a result of the passion and generosity of every single person who fundraised, donated, and supported the event. Thank you to everyone for your dedication and the strong sense of community that makes the Variety Bash so special.





## 2025 VARIETY ADVENTURE RIDE

The 2025 Variety Adventure Ride saw 22 riders take on six epic days across NSW from the Wollemi State Conservation Area to the stunning heights of Barrington Tops.

Along the way, riders stopped at local schools and communities, proudly delivering more than \$15,000 in grants. The three grants included funding for interactive playground panels in Lithgow, performing arts equipment for the tiny Hargraves Public School, and communication boards for students living with disabilities in Gulgong — each creating lasting impact for children in regional areas.

After tackling river crossings, conquering Mount

Panorama, and navigating winding forest trails, the group finished their journey in Singleton, having raised an incredible \$150,000.

This remarkable effort was not just about the adventure, but the teamwork that carried riders through the event.

A warm thank you to every participant, supporter and sponsor — especially Pickles, whose continued commitment helps bring the Variety Adventure Ride to life. Together, you've made a lasting difference for countless children and families across NSW, ACT, and beyond.







## Thank You, Woolworths Team & Customers

The partnership between Variety and Woolworths continues to have a profound impact on children and families in need.

Since 2013, Woolworths has stood beside us, helping to create brighter futures for the kids who need it most. On their behalf, we extend our thanks for another incredible year of generosity and care.

In 2025, Woolworths in-store campaigns and support of the NSW Bash, showed the extraordinary power of community spirit, raising \$667,860 to support Variety's vital work. We're grateful to the Woolworths team and customers for getting behind the \$2 Variety wall tokens, donating via Round Up at the checkout, and for their enthusiastic support at our fundraising events including the NSW Bash. All these acts of kindness make a big difference.

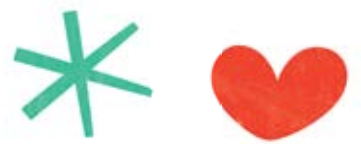
One of the ways this partnership has made a difference this year was the provision of a new Sunshine Coach for Yandelora School in Narellan in March.

According to Yandelora School Principal, Jacqueline Lockyer, the new coach will have a significant impact on students' lives. "This new vehicle is not just a mode of transport; it is a gateway for our students to explore education beyond the school gate," she said.

A heartfelt thank you to every Woolworths team member who has gone above and beyond to support us this year. Your dedication is opening doors for children and families across NSW and the ACT.







## Thank You, Volunteers

Each year, more than 500 incredible volunteers help bring our events to life, generously lending their time, energy, and skills to spread joy to children in need.

In November, we were thrilled to welcome volunteers from Mastercard, Telstra, and HSBC to three corporate volunteering days at our Artarmon office. Filled with enthusiasm and festive cheer, they wrapped more than 2000 gifts for our Kids Xmas Parties - an outstanding effort that helped make Christmas extra special for so many children.

Our volunteers were out in force again at the parties, assisting with event set up, guest registration, gift giving and even supporting Santa with his photo opportunities. A huge thank you to our wonderful volunteers from Woolworths, The Access Group, Realterm, Takeda Pharmaceuticals, New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, Spinmaster, and Shore Hire for making the celebrations truly magical.

Volunteers also remain the heart and soul of our motoring events. These people give their time so generously to help bring the Variety mission to life.

From paramedics and mechanics to safety personnel marking checkpoints, our dedicated volunteers bring their expertise, vehicles, and loyalty to every event. They are the vital cogs in our big motoring wheel, going above and beyond to keep our Bash, Dash, Ride, and Adventure events running safely and smoothly – ensuring every participant has a fun and memorable experience.

To every Variety volunteer who has given their time and heart this year – thank you. We are deeply grateful for your belief in our mission and your commitment to helping every child thrive.

*"I volunteer because I love seeing the smiles on these kids' faces and hearing about the incredible impact Variety has made to help these kids and their families."*

*Teagan, Variety Volunteer*

**Talk to us about Volunteering -**  
**[volunteer@varietytynsw.org.au](mailto:volunteer@varietytynsw.org.au)**



## Major Partners



Grahame  
**MAPP** Family  
Foundation

## Thanks to our generous partners and supporters

Andrew Pratten Charitable Trust

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Resqmed Services

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Hotel Wangi

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(NSW)

CommBank Staff Foundation

CRE Insurance Broking Pty Ltd

First National Real Estate

Setcass Pty Ltd

St Marys Rugby League Club

## How to **Help**

### MAKE A DONATION

Your donation is the key to creating lasting change for children and families across NSW and the ACT. Your funds directly help our vital grants, programs, and events. Every contribution makes a tangible difference. Donate today - [fundraise.varietynswact.org.au/donate](https://fundraise.varietynswact.org.au/donate).



Thanks to the incredible support of our community, Variety's life-changing programs empower children to live without limits. And the great news? You can join in our mission!

### JOIN AN EVENT

By participating in a Variety event, you step directly into a fun and rewarding experience. Enjoy the chance to meet fellow supporters and immerse yourself in the Variety family. Discover our 2026 events - [variety.org.au/nsw/events](https://variety.org.au/nsw/events).







Gato Sales & Repairs  
Stevkar Pty Ltd  
The Shirley Ward Foundation  
First Hand Foundation  
Matana Foundation  
Tamex Transport  
Volvo Group Australia  
Essential Energy  
The Bay Hotel Motel  
Cisco  
Altis Consulting  
Stainless Services NSW Pty Ltd  
AMP Foundation Charitable Trust  
Fireworks Australia Importers Pty Ltd  
Smithy's Group Pty Ltd  
A.Royale & Co Pty Ltd  
Australia Post  
Canterbury Hurlstone Park RSL Club  
Cumberland City Council  
Dick and Pip Smith Foundation  
Elkington Bishop Molineaux Insurance Brokers Pty Ltd

Help Street Foundation  
Jack and Co Food Stores Pty Ltd  
Lightning Ridge Bowling Club  
Lindt & Sprungli Australia  
Newcastle Coal Infrastructure Group  
M Resources  
OneRail Australia (NSW) Pty Ltd  
Pirtek Australia  
Ron Finemore Transport  
Tech Data Advanced Solutions (ANZ) Limited  
West's New Lambton  
Willow Investment Management Pty Ltd  
Winten Property Group  
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Grand Stand Events  
Tumbi Tyres  
Hunter City Motor Group  
The Stag & Hunter Hotel  
Justin Worboys Photography

Armstrong Family Superannuation Fund  
Chameleon Touring Systems  
CMV Truck & Bus  
Jon Russell  
Kennedys Automotive Repairs  
KPMG  
South Coast Decorative Concrete Supplies  
Stainless Group Services  
The Manildra Foundation  
Gerry Wubbels Automotive  
Heartland Castle Hill  
John Kline AAA Touring  
Pivotel  
RT Group  
Yokohama  
Acrobat Removals & Storage Newcastle  
International Towers Barangaroo  
McDonald Jones Stadium  
NuSport The Forum

## BECOME A VOLUNTEER

When you choose to volunteer with Variety, whether as an individual or part of a corporate team, you're making a profound impact on young lives. Your dedication directly translates into meaningful support. Learn more - [variety.org.au/nsw/get-involved/volunteer](https://variety.org.au/nsw/get-involved/volunteer).



## LEAVE A GIFT IN YOUR WILL




Did you know a gift in your Will can have an incredible difference in the life of a child in need? Even 1% of your estate, after you've taken care of those closest to you, can be life-changing. Find out more - [variety.org.au/nsw/get-involved/gift-in-will](https://variety.org.au/nsw/get-involved/gift-in-will).





## STAY IN TOUCH

-  [variety.org.au/nsw](http://variety.org.au/nsw)
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-  [VarietyTheChildrensCharityNSWACT](https://www.youtube.com/VarietyTheChildrensCharityNSWACT)
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