



We love a challenge!

f course, our challenge at Variety
Queensland is to assist as many
disadvantaged, sick or kids in need
of help as we can. And we just love rising
to the occasion.

Our 2016 year saw the conduct and support of 312 fundraising events by our many loyal and enthusiastic volunteer fundraisers. From morning teas to mountain climbs, horse racing to hiking - and of course our famous motoring events – all played their part in raising almost four and a half million dollars; all now utilised. A selection of these events are showcased later in this Review.

We also appreciate the results of another wonderful year of patronage by our friends in the business sector and our many private and regular donors.

I am well aware that organisations and individuals alike make sacrifices to continue to fund services for Variety children in need. I assure you that we honour your philanthropy and kindness by adhering to our long-standing credo of money in – money out. Variety Queensland has no large cash reserve or investments to tide us over from one year to the next. If a child is in need we do whatever it takes - within the bounds of good practice and stewardship - to provide relief

Unfortunately, there are many more children and families requiring Variety services that there are funds available to pay for them. Herein lies our continuing challenge, and the reason why donated and generated funds are never dormant.

2015 and 2016 were challenging years. Income forecasts reflected a difficult fundraising environment, and it was necessary for us to lessen our business risk and work from a lower cost base. We carried vacancies for professional staff throughout 2016 and relied more than ever on the efforts of our magnificent volunteers to reduce event, fundraising and administrative costs

I am pleased to report that this risk reduction strategy achieved the desired result. Fundraising income reduced only marginally, and we preserved the overall social impact we were pursuing; certainly more so than if we hadn't acted so carefully.

Organisationally, it left us in a stronger financial

position, with greater capability and better prepared to develop and implement a new strategic plan during the course of 2017.

I would like to thank everyone for their contribution throughout 2016. Members, event participants, donors, sponsors, volunteers, staff and the Board all provided passion and dedication when it was needed. I assure you that your efforts are deeply appreciated by the children and families who need it the most.

In practice though, we can't just consider the results of any single year. Although social circumstances, health care and lifestyles change over time, Variety in 2017 will continue to reflect the same characteristics it has since 1928. These will be familiar to anyone with a connection to Variety Oueensland:

- Provide more services to our ever growing and deserving constituency.
- Introduce more corporate and individual supporters to Variety's work
- Conduct fantastic, memorable, and successful events.
- Provide more support to the efforts of our volunteer fundraisers.
- Be a great place to work, to volunteer and to support.
- Reduce the time between children requiring support and obtaining the funds required for it.

2017 is also an opportunity to recommit Variety Queensland and its people to what we are really about: the value and potential of each child, and their inherent rights to a happy, healthy, dignified and productive life.

I'm sure we all look forward to the opportunity this gives us. Together we can have an impact beyond imagination!

Ian Mackay CHAIRMAN



All children are special, but we support the most vulnerable under three key programs.

All children are special. However, Variety – the Children's Charity of Queensland serves children who are less fortunate; children who live and grow up with a serious illness, disability or disadvantage. These special children require a very special kind of care.

Children with these conditions suffer enough, but this is inevitably followed by families struggling to afford and cope with complex treatments and therapy, mobility and medical devices, care and pain management.

In fact, raising a child with a serious illness or disability can cost a family between four and five times that of a child not living with one of these conditions. Financial strain, emotional stress, physical exhaustion and social isolation can further impact on families and their children's development, health, education and future.

Variety passionately believes that these children have the same rights to an enjoyable and productive life, just as all kids should. We promise that, no matter the condition or situation, we will do all within our power to prevent a child or family being left to carry on alone.



We seek to build them a future without boundaries, regardless of background or ability, under three key programs:

Our Care program

delivers critical life-saving medical equipment and services, healthcare and well-being.

Our Freedom program

delivers vital life-changing equipment and services for mobility, independence and social inclusion.

Our Future program

delivers crucial lifeenriching communication equipment and services, education and self-esteem.

THE FACTS

Severe and profound **blindness** affects 49,640 Australian children, with one born each three hours.

Cerebral Palsy affects 8,755 Australian children, with one born each 15 hours.

Autism affects 21,250 Australian children, with one diagnosed each seven hours.

Down Syndrome

affects 4,675 Australian children, with one born each 32 hours.

Half of Australian children with disabilities have a profound or severe limitation of ability to self-care, move or communicate.

Severe and profound deafness affects 10,370 Australian children, with one born each 28 hours, and one more diagnosed by school age each day.

78% of Australian school principals reported not having enough resources to meet the needs of children with a disability.

45% of those with a disability in Australia are living near or below the poverty line, more than double the OECD average of 22%.

Intellectual disability affects 74,760 Australian children, with one diagnosed

each two hours.
Those with a disability
Talia are living near or

Severe or profound limitation is defined as when a child is unable to move, communicate or care for themselves without the assistance of another person

Statistics on this page are an amalgam of those reported or estimated in the following publications and reports: • Australian Bureau of Statistics Disability, Ageing and Carers Reports 2009, 2012 and 2015 • Price Waterhouse Coopers, 2011, 'Disability expectations - Investing in a better life, a stronger Australia' • Mothers and Babies reports, Various, 2013, NSW Department of Health • Birth Defects in Victoria reports, 2013, Victorian Department of Health Consultative Council on Obstetric & Paediatric Mortality & Morbidity • Congenital Anomalies in Queensland, 2013, Queensland Department of Health • The Telethon Institute for Child Health WA, Research

VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

Mission

The Variety mission is to empower children who are sick, disadvantaged or who have special needs to live, laugh and learn.

We achieve this by providing medical care and equipment, mobility aids, communication devices, learning systems and opportunities for fun and personal development beyond the reach of families.

Vision

Our vision is for all Australian children to achieve their full potential, regardless of ability or background.

Our values In every deci

We value each child as an individual, with inherent rights to a happy, healthy, dignified and productive life. We will do everything in our power to assist all children in need to benefit from those rights.

We recognise that raising a child with a congenital or acquired injury, illness or disability is expensive, isolating and demanding. We will do all within our power to ensure that no family is left to carry on alone.

We understand that Variety is not the cause; its beneficiaries are. The activities we undertake, funds we raise, support we achieve and decisions we make are for the sole benefit of Variety children and families.

We acknowledge that families requesting support are likely to be experiencing anxiety and strain, and our relationships with them will take this into account. We will be guided by the individuality, delicacy and urgency of each child's and family's circumstances.

We value the donors and sponsors who generously provide the funds we need for our work. Our relations and communications with them, and the community at large, will be accurate, respectful and courteous.

We respect the profound and life-changing impact of our volunteer fundraisers and event participants. These wonderful people are at the heart of our organisation, and their commitment is the reason why Variety touches the lives of so many children and families.

We appreciate that enjoyment, laughter and positivity are the hallmarks of the bonds we share with each other and with those we support. Although our work is serious, we never forget the importance of having fun.



OUR GOVERNANCE

Variety Queensland Inc. is established as a charity under the Associations Incorporations Act (Queensland).

Variety Queensland is also a charity registered by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission, classified as a Public Benevolent Institution, is Income Tax exempt, has access to GST charity concessions, and is authorised as a Deductible Gift Recipient by the Australian Taxation Office.

Board of Directors

lan Mackay

Since February 2006

Peter Apel

Since November 2013

John Colvin

Until February 2016

Ben Cox

Since July 2016

Tamara Cross

Until December 2015

Peter Ffrench

Until December 2015

Nick Harwood

Since July 2016

Ross Morgan

Since November 2015

Duncan Murray

Since June 2016

Craig Purdy Until December 2015

Paul Shumack From September 1996

James Stewart

Until December 2015

Anne Tunnecliffe

Until July 2016

John Wadley

Until February 2016

Kim Wainwright

From March 2012

Stewardship, governance and legal responsibilities

The Board is likewise focused on the governance issues that guarantee our continued ability to achieve so much for Queensland children.

Organisational performance, legal compliance and risk mitigation are all determined through the Board's execution of seven principle duties:

Mission and values

As its stewards, ensures the determination, clarity and articulation of the mission and values.

Strategic direction, programs and services

Operates with an effective strategic outlook, and delivers realistic and affordable programs and services consistent with the mission.

Resourcing and advocacy

Represents and advocates the interests of the organisation to external stakeholders, commits to its financial goals, and resolves conflicting financial priorities.

Legal compliance

Exercises due care and diligence, ensures compliance with the law and meets statutory obligations.

Supporting the CEO

member's experience and skills to appropriately resource, support, mentor and guide the CEO.

Independent

Each Board member has free access to professional advice on legal, financial and compliance matters. Maintains the financial health of the organisation through proficient and regular review of reports, informed discussion and timely decision making.

Financial viability

Board processes and health

Attends to its own condition by evaluating and improving its composition, duties, meetings and decision making processes.

Voluntary service

Board members, with the exception of the CEO (a salaried officer) receive no remuneration for their services, and must meet all their own expenses on Variety business.

Cause leadership and achieving the mission

Our Board of Directors are responsible for the actions, successes and impact of Variety Queensland. It does this as a group, relying on its combined knowledge and perspectives to make decisions that will create and deliver an inspiring future for children.

It is also the principal life support system for this mainly volunteer organisation spread across the state. Good decisions and priorities provide maximum client benefit and social impact, building and supporting teams of volunteers and fundraisers dedicated to creating that future.





Variety Bash

The 2016 Variety Bash departed Warwick on Friday 30th September, with 130 vehicles and over 350 fun loving participants geared up for the ten day, 3000km journey. Bashers headed south into flood-stricken New South Wales, forcing route changes on nine of the ten days on the road. Alternately moving ahead of flood waters or waiting for them to recede added a level of complexity not experienced on previous Bashes.

This year's destination was the Australian motor racing capital of Bathurst, where many of the participants took a few days' rest amongst the octane-fuelled excitement of the Bathurst 1000.

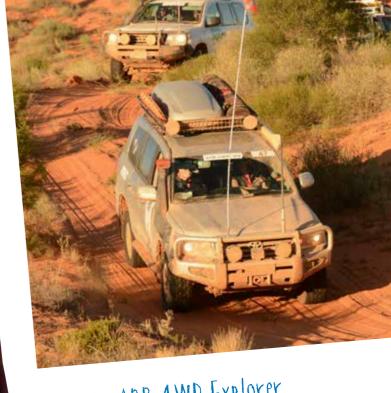
In a phenomenal effort, these dedicated and generous people raised \$1.4 million for Queensland kids in need.



Yamaha Variety Jet Trek

The Great Ocean Road Yamaha Variety Jet Trek began in Portland on Monday 29 February, with over 53 personal watercraft taking to the ocean.

With picture-perfect views of the Victorian coast for the next six days, 125 thrill seekers travelled east, visiting Warrnambool, Port Campbell, Lorne, Ocean Grove, Mornington, St Kilda, and finally concluding at Phillip Island.



Variety ARB 4WD Explorer

This tour commenced in Charleville, Western Queensland on Monday 16 May with 57 well-prepared 4WD vehicles carrying 128 modern day explorers.

Over 14 days, this classic adventure saw participants travel along the Birdsville and Strzelecki Tracks to the magnificence of the Simpson desert. The final leg was south to the winemaking country of the Barossa Valley.

A wet summer meant that route selection was of paramount importance, but nothing dampened our spirits as we navigated through the outback, making friends and experiencing the outback joys of Thargomindah, Innamincka, Birdsville, Maree, Coober Pedy, and Wilpena Pound.





Construction Industry Alliance Golf Day

The Construction Industry Alliance (CIA) is a group of local industry leaders supplying quality products and expert advice to the building industry.

Each member of the CIA shares common business and community values. Tightly bound relationships and a desire to contribute to the communities in which they operate motivates this business group to engage their networks in helping Variety kids.

The CIA golf day has been running for 10 years and has raised over \$200,000 for the kids of Queensland.

Variety Ride 4 kids

The Variety Ride 4 Kids event gets bigger and better each year, finding some of the best motorcycle-friendly routes in Oueensland.

During March, 40 riders wound their way to Texas, on the Queensland and New South Wales border.

The famous Stockman Hotel was our rest and recovery point half way through the ride, then a return to Brisbane in spectacular riding weather.

Three of these weekend events were supported throughout the year – each one a fundraising success.

Miss World Australia Pageant

Yet another young Queenslander was crowned Miss World Australia at a glittering Melbourne ceremony on Friday 22 July 2016. Country girl Madeline Cowe fulfilled her dream and took the title in a stunning pageant and selection process.

Miss World Australia is the largest international pageant, and this year put Madeline's home town of Tully on the map.

As part of the pageant, all Miss World Australia contestants raised funds for Variety, with an impressive 2016 total of \$267,000.

Madeline is passionate about empowering young people and hopes to use her title to make a difference to the many kids in need of support.

Triple Zero Ball

On Saturday 4 June, 500 emergency service workers, partners and guests joined in the fun of Brisbane's annual Triple-Zero Charity Ball.

This was the fifth time that police, paramedics, nurses and fire and rescue staff joined forces for the fun, glitz and glamour of this special night with a purpose.

The Ball has raised in excess of \$120,000 over that time, thanks to the efforts of the generous group of volunteers who organise the event each year.







Valentine's Day Ball

The hugely successful and unforgettable Variety Valentine's Ball was held on Saturday 13 February, raising over \$60,000 to help children in need across Queensland.

This spectacular event was Great Gatsby-themed in the exquisite setting of the Brisbane Tattersalls Club. A predominantly younger group of business professionals and their friends were treated to a four-piece 1920s swing band and dance-floor, roving performers, 'magical' guests, photographers, a monster raffle and a popular Fashions of the Night.

Organised by Variety volunteer Tyson Clarke and a coterie of helpers, the Valentine's Day ball set the benchmark for themed events to come.

Variety Race Day

The inaugural Variety Race Day was held on 16 July 2016 thanks to the determination and resilience of volunteer fundraisers Scott Carter and Peter Evans.

Scott and Peter offered over a unique experience to over 100 guests. The excitement of live racing, the comfort of the privately-catered Birdcage and the desire to contribute to Variety children guaranteed this would be a successful day.

All the hard work paid off with \$20,000 raised at the event.

Guests eagerly await the next opportunity to experience this magical mix of fashion, sport, socialising and a wonderful cause.



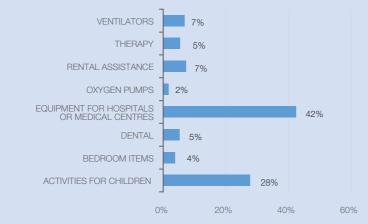
SPECIFIC **PURPOSE GRANTS**

In addition to the supply of outof-home experiences provided under the Future (life-enriching) program, Variety Queensland also provided 94 special purpose cash grants to families of 1,932 children with disabilities and their supporting organisations and institutions.

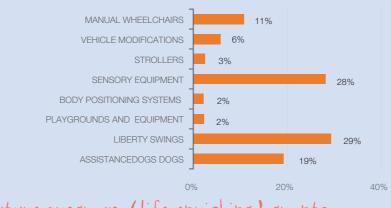
Individual grants made a significant impact on 82 children requiring personal medical and mobility equipment, training and education, pain management, transportation, assistance dogs and therapy. A further 12 special purpose grants were made to medical facilities, schools and local government in support of an estimated 1,850 children each

These charts show the detailed distribution of the grants under Variety Queensland's three key programs of Caring (life-saving), Freedom (life-changing) and Future (life-enriching).

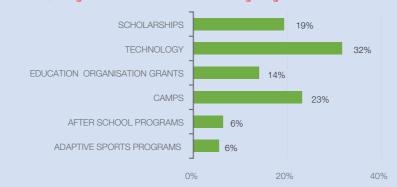
Caring program (life saving) grants



Freedom program (life changing) grants



Future program (life enriching) grants



MEET ANNIKA

Annika is a determined 14 year old girl living with Quadriplegic Cerebral Palsy

Annika suffers from continuous and debilitating back pain and increasingly restricted ranges of limb movement as a result of long periods spent sitting or lying.

Despite her challenges, Annika enjoys attending high school and in many ways she is much like other children her age.

However, the help that Annika now needed most was a very specialised powered wheelchair, with a standing function to regularly move her young body, help reduce her constant back pain and give her more freedom and confidence by provide life-altering physical therapy benefits and freedom. Financially this was simply out of reach for the family unfortunately.

This is where Variety - the Children's Charity was able to step in. Thanks to the generosity of many Variety supporters, Annika was granted her standing chair which has endless benefits to her quality and enjoyment of life.

Annika can now move herself into a standing position, which not only has health benefits for her but also emotional benefits like, being eye level with her peers and standing up for things like graduating from high school and attending her school formal which will all happen in the next few years as she transitions into young adulthood.



OUR CORPORATE PARTNERS















McCOSKER

























YAMAHA













OUR

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