



Impact Report 2016/17

Variety – the Children’s Charity QLD





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The Why

Steve Wakerley

**CEO, Variety
Queensland
Incorporated**



Why do we do what we do? It's simple – everything we do at Variety is for the kids.

All children should be able to follow their dreams and be the best they can be. No matter what life throws at them. No matter what their ability.

Last year, thanks to your generosity and commitment, Variety gave 10,142 children across Queensland a fair go through grants of equipment, services, scholarships or a memorable life experience. With close to \$1M in grants given out to kids in need, the impact of your support will be felt throughout Queensland for many years to come. You have truly changed lives!

With your ongoing support, Variety can continue to provide children and their families with financial assistance for things like specialist equipment, therapy, and medical supplies, when they can't afford it, and when government help isn't available.

Thank you for making such a tremendous impact!

Ian Mackay

**Chief Barker,
Variety Queensland
Incorporated**



I would like to sincerely thank our members, event participants, donors, fundraisers, sponsors, board members, volunteers and all our staff for helping Queensland children who are sick, disadvantaged or who have special needs to live, laugh and learn.

We remain laser focused on our ultimate goal of assisting Queensland children so they can attain their full potential. This year, we have asked more of our donors and fundraisers to join with us in presenting grants of equipment, services and scholarships. There is many a tear shed at these wonderful presentations – and the people who have donated so generously or worked so hard to raise funds can see how their support makes a real difference to these kids.

We are better placed than ever before to continue that work, but we can't do it alone. With your continued support, we can give more kids a fair go. Thank you with all my heart!



**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



Service Grants



Program Grants



Supplies Grants



Sunshine Coach Grants

SCHOLARSHIPS

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



KIDS' EVENTS

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

108,107

And a better life for the kids of Queensland



We granted:

\$969,967
to help kids
in need

We supported:

75
grants

We impacted:

10,142
kids in
QLD

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



Lachlan

Lachlan is eight years old and lives with cerebral palsy and epilepsy. Lachlan has muscle tightness and weakness in all of his limbs but particularly in the lower limbs, as he normally would be sitting in his wheelchair for long periods when going about his day.

Thanks to Variety fundraisers, Lachlan was presented with a new Mygo Stander. This means Lachlan can not only participate in activities at eye-level with his peers, but it also provides the opportunity for him to improve movement and muscle tone, circulation, respiration and even bone density by spending more time upright.

Georgia

Georgia is 16 years old, a wheelchair basketball athlete and a Variety Heart Scholarship recipient. Georgia was born with arthrogryposis and bilateral club feet, requiring her to walk with the aid of callipers. She had painful surgery almost every year until she was eight, when she took up several sports as part of a recommendation from her medical team to exercise.

Georgia has represented Queensland in wheelchair basketball ever since, seeing her on the pathway to her ultimate sporting goal. But if that's not enough, outside of her sporting dreams, Georgia's post-school aspirations are to study biomedical engineering!





Annika

Annika is 15 years old and lives with quadriplegic cerebral palsy. Annika lives with continuous and debilitating back pain and increasingly restricted ranges of limb movement as a result of long periods spent sitting or lying. With the help of many generous attendees at the Variety of Stars gala, Annika received a specialised powered wheelchair, with a standing function to provide more regular movement.

Annika can now move herself into a standing position, which not only has health benefits but also provides freedom and emotional benefits like, as Annika said, “not having my friends look down on me,” as she can now be at eye level with her peers.

Paige

Paige is 17 years old, a swimmer, part of the Australian Dolphins swim team and has a dream of winning gold in Tokyo 2020.

But what you can't tell from the picture of a happy teenager is that Paige was in a serious car accident when she was a toddler, leaving her with cerebral palsy and many obstacles to overcome. Paige went on to take up swimming and is well on her way to achieving her dreams. Not only was she awarded a Variety Heart Scholarship this year but she will become a young ambassador for Variety and help mentor other Aussie kids to chase their dreams too!





Skye

Skye is two years old, has a rare chromosomal anomaly and profound hypotonia with micrognathia dysmorphic features. She also suffers from gastroesophageal reflux, is fed via a PEG, and has hearing impairments. A major development milestone Skye will be working hard to reach is crawling.

Thanks to the Variety Ladies Lunch, beautiful little Skye was presented with an aid to support her to develop the skills and motions she needs to get herself mobile, along with funding costly hydrotherapy sessions with a physiotherapist which would otherwise be out of reach. This support has propelled Skye's progress towards this important milestone.

Tom

Tom is 12 years old and has endured over 60 operations, having multiple disabilities with which to cope. Variety joined forces with Empower Assistance Dogs to deliver Tom his very own fully trained assistance dog, Ivy. Tom has very fragile bones and Ivy provides steadiness for him, while still allowing him to gain independence.

To add to his challenges, Tom is also blind. One eye can see light, colour and shape but only up to five centimetres in front of him. Although Ivy is not a guide dog, Tom is the guide but Ivy provides assistance in ways that support the challenges Tom can face doing everyday tasks.





Noah

Noah, 13, was born with Amelia, a congenital disease, affecting his right forearm. Noah has gone on to become a champion swimmer and surf lifesaver. Noah was awarded a Variety Heart Scholarship at the Variety of Stars gala. Shortly after Noah was selected for the Para Development Squad, which is an important step on the pathway to the Senior Australian swim team. Noah travelled to Canberra for a week in January to the AIS to train with the best Paralympian coach in Australia.

Going to the AIS was one of his biggest dreams, and he is now well on his way to his dream of competing in Tokyo!

Rosella Park School

In February, Rosella Park School was presented with a new Sunshine Coach to help ensure ALL students enjoy learning experiences outside of the school environment. The previous 12 seater bus was too small and could not accommodate wheelchairs, so those kids unfortunately missed out on group outings.

Chefs Cameron Matthews, Ben Williamson and Spencer Patrick took the night off from their busy restaurants to dazzle guests at the Gladstone Gala Ball in October. Funds raised assisted Rosella Park School to purchase the larger 24 seat bus with wheelchair access and inclusivity for all students.



How you helped

Variety Bash

The 28th annual Variety Bash raised \$1.1 million for Queensland kids, thanks to 112 vehicles and 320 participants who made the dusty 10-day trek from the Sunshine Coast to Airlie Beach via Longreach. Fun-loving Bashers dressed up in wacky costumes, presented equipment grants to local kids and visited many schools, putting countless smiles on kids' faces! This year's top fundraiser was Car 36 - Hump Express with an incredible \$126,319.

Jet Trek

The 2017 Yamaha Variety Jet Trek was another sell-out with 120 PWCs hitting the water from Mission Beach to Airlie Beach. These committed Trekkers raised \$270,000 for kids in need and had the chance to see the direct impact of their hard work at a number of grant presentations through the Whitsundays. The Jet Trek also provided a welcome boost to the local economy on the heels of Cyclone Debbie.

Variety of Stars

After strutting the red carpet, guests enjoyed a night of glitz and glamour, an evening with some of Australia's most loved and admired personalities - all in the name of raising much-needed funds for children who are sick, disadvantaged or who have special needs. Gala proceeds funded a sit to stand chair for local teenager Annika, who now has newfound freedom and endless health benefits thanks to her new chair.



How you helped

Variety of Chefs

Guests were treated to a decadent four course menu with premium wines to match. The talented chefs and sommelier generously donated their time and created a culinary experience to remember. The highlight of the evening was hearing from Variety Heart Scholarship recipients Noah, Georgia and Paige, with guests donating generously to fund additional scholarships so that more children can achieve their full potential and follow their dreams.



Hair with Heart

Your hair donation helps in more ways than one. Donations of hair are made into specialised wigs for children who have lost their hair due to medical conditions like alopecia or cancer. Variety also raises money by selling donated hair, which is then used to provide equipment and services to children in need. Many hair donors also fundraise for Variety before their "Big Chop", giving even more kids a fair go.



Partnerships

Our committed community and corporate partners continue to make a positive, lasting difference to Queensland kids and their families. From event sponsorship and cause related marketing campaigns including John Sands Christmas cards and QBE Switch and Support, to events like the Club Clipsal Cape Bash and Broadbeach Country Music Festival, every dollar has helped ensure that more disadvantaged kids can live, laugh and learn.



How you helped

Variety Ladies Lunch

Variety supporter Julie Vines organised a beautiful lunch with 70 ladies that raised close to \$9,000. There wasn't a dry eye in the house when little Skye Morgan's dad spoke about her challenges and was presented with a crawler to give her greater mobility. We're thrilled to report that Skye is making fantastic progress in her crawler. Her head control is improving and she can sit for a very short time on her own.



Special Children's Christmas Party

The party of the year gave 3,000 kids and their families a day they'll never forget – complete with lunch, drinks, fruit, lollies and ice cream along with a live stage show, face painting and rides. No Christmas party is complete without Santa Claus, who made his grand entrance in a sled pulled by reindeer before proceeding to his Toy Room where he met with each child to give out presents.



Major Donors

Variety is fortunate to count on the support of very generous donors. These individuals and organisations – including JJ Richards and Sons, Textor Metal Industries, Jack Purcell Meats Pty Ltd and Bundaberg Brewed Drinks – share our vision of all children attaining their full potential regardless of ability or background. Donations are used immediately to provide grants of equipment, services and scholarships to families and organisations that rely on Variety for assistance.



How you helped

Art Union

The Luxury Escape art union raised funds to help more Queensland kids receive the equipment and services they so urgently need. The lucky winner of the luxury escape package was Sandii Lewis of Windemere, taking home a Toyota Prado as well as a Yamaha Waverunner. The winning ticket was sold by Variety Bash team Sherriff Electrical in Bundaberg. Special thanks to prize sponsors Linemac Toyota and NRG Industrial Pty Ltd.

Santa Fun Run

In the true giving spirit of Christmas, hundreds of Santas came together in Brisbane, Bundaberg and Toowoomba to run, walk or rollerblade in support

of very special and deserving kids. One of these kids, Lachlan Stretton, received a standing frame to provide him with greater mobility and independence.



Brats Bash

Long-time Variety supporters Mark and Julie Smith held the 10th annual Brats Bash, an event for the whole family where the only prerequisite is the ability to have fun and enjoy yourself. Proceeds from the 2017 Brats Bash from Yatala to Cherrabah Resort helped to fund eye gaze equipment for little Claire Gutke so she can communicate with her family and friends.



Thank you to all our supporters

MAJOR SUPPORTERS



Thank you to all our supporters

KEY SUPPORTERS

Broadbeach Country Music
Festival

Bundaberg Brewed Drinks

Damon Harris

Discovery Holiday Parks

Famous Insurance

Gladstone Mayor's Ball

Jack Purcell Meats Pty Ltd

JJ Richards and Sons Pty Ltd

Julie Vines

Kanga Couriers

NRG Industrial Pty Ltd

Paul Klease

Skating At Festival

Surfers Paradise Marriott
Resort and Spa

Textor Metal Industries

The Home Rental Centre

EVENT SUPPORTERS

5th Avenue Jewellers

AV Partners

Bromley & Co

Catalina Sounds

Chaffey Bros. Wine Co.

Chameleon Touring Systems

DW Sound

Fraser Isle Spanner Crabs

Gerard's Bistro

Griffith Corporation

Hoddles Creek Estate

Hot Tomato 102.9

House of Arras

Longreach Regional Council

Nu Nu Restaurant

Optima Homes

Prime Cut Meats

Royal Australian Air Force

Simon George & Sons

Stokehouse Q

Supercheap Auto

TFH Hire Services

The Long Apron

Torbreck Vintners

Tosca Industries

Tweed Coast Victory Group

Viking Rentals

Vomo Island Fiji

Witches Falls Winery

What's Next

You've made an incredible impact on the lives of kids who are sick, disadvantaged or who have special needs – thank you! We look ahead to next year with excitement and anticipation – steadfast in our mission to give a fair go to Aussie kids who would otherwise miss out.

With your continued support, we can expand our programs, such as the Variety Heart Scholarships Program, and impact even more young lives through more grants for Sway Fun Gliders, Variety Sunshine Coaches, eye gaze equipment, adaptive bikes, vehicle modifications and much more.

All of this will only be possible with the united passion and commitment of people like you. We hope that you'll join us on this journey!



Include Variety in your Will

By including a gift to Variety in your Will, you can make a huge impact on the lives of kids in need, now and into the future.

You can make sure Aussie kids who are sick, disadvantaged, or who have special needs get a fair go and attain their full potential.

It will change lives

Your gift will play a crucial role in ensuring Variety can continue to support kids when their families turn to us for help.

It creates a legacy

Leaving a gift in your Will is one of the most effective and long-lasting ways you can impact a cause that is close to your heart. You will make a difference.

It's easy

It doesn't take long to make a difference.
A simple Will can take as little as one hour to do.

For more information or to speak to someone about your intentions, please contact us today.

info@varietyqld.org.au
(07) 3907 9300



Moment of Joy

Annika, 16, smiling when she sees herself in the mirror, standing up for the first time, with her sit to stand chair funded by wonderful Variety supporters.

She can now be at eye level with her peers and stand up for special milestones like her high school formal and graduation, as she transitions into young adulthood.



W variety.org.au

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