



variety
the children's charity



Impact Report 2019/20

Variety – the Children's Charity
Queensland

“Because of you, in 2019/20, Aussie kids who miss out, have been able to join in.

Thank you for believing all kids deserve a fair go in life regardless of sickness, disability or disadvantage.

Your generosity is allowing kids to gain mobility, get out and about in the community, communicate, play, achieve independence and increase their self-esteem.

Thank you, from one member of the Variety family, to another.”

– Steve Wakerley, CEO

Cover image (Kia and Brylee): Since opening in 2019, the Variety Learning Centre at NRL Cowboys House Girls Campus in Townsville has grown tremendously. The centre provides after-school tutoring and workplace-readiness programs that boost confidence and increase pathways to success for 50 girls from remote Indigenous communities who have left home to start high school hundreds of kilometres away. We are proud to continue partnering with NRL Cowboys House to give more Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander kids the opportunity to reach their full potential through the Variety Learning Centre.

Our Why

Bushfires, droughts and the COVID-19 pandemic have had a devastating effect on Aussie families this past year. For those families living in poverty or caring for a child with a disability, they've been pushed to breaking point.

Although it hasn't been an easy year, something to be proud of is the massive impact your generosity is creating.

Thank you for believing all Aussie kids deserve a fair go in life.

Because of you, last year Variety - the Children's Charity of Queensland created a world of possibilities for 6,490 kids through \$1,264,973 in grants of equipment and services, Variety Heart Scholarships, programs and experiences.

Sometimes it can be hard to see beyond a child's disability or disadvantage. At Variety - the Children's Charity, we know there is magic in every child, just waiting to be shown to the world. Your kindness shows you believe unequivocally in every child's potential.

I hope you enjoy this impact report highlighting the achievements made possible because of you. Each story demonstrates the magic in every child, the strength of the Variety family and how your support, big or small, changes lives.

Thank you for getting Aussie kids through the tough times!

Steve Wakerley

CEO, Variety – the Children's Charity of Queensland





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

So we help
kids with these
challenges:



Sick



Disadvantaged



Disability



By supporting in these ways:

GRANTS

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



SCHOLARSHIPS

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



PROGRAMS

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



Youth Ambassadors



Variety Kids Sports Camps

EXPERIENCES

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

Variety Special Children's Christmas Party



To create lasting impact around Australia



Number of Aussie kids
impacted by Variety
this year

81,244



And a better life for the kids of Queensland



We granted:

\$1,264,973
to help kids
in need

We supported:

**75 grants and
33 activations
of Kids Support
programs**

We impacted:

6,490
kids in
QLD

How We Help: Grants

Variety provides grants to kids for medical and mobility supplies and equipment, technology, educational resources, wigs and essential personal items. We help schools and organisations with learning and play equipment as well as Variety Sunshine Coaches to assist with transport.



St. Saviour's College, Toowoomba is a Catholic secondary college, providing an education to girls from diverse backgrounds. This includes students from migrant and refugee backgrounds and Indigenous girls from regional and remote communities, including Cunnamulla, Palm Island, Kowanyama, Aurukun and Dauan Island.

Variety granted 12 pairs of leather school shoes for students who reside in the boarding house. Many of the girls had not worn formal shoes before and were attending school with ill-fitting shoes that were also not compliant with their health and safety regulations.

Lexie was diagnosed with Smith-Lemli-Opitz syndrome (SLOS) just before her 2nd birthday. There are currently only 12 cases in Australia. People who have SLOS are unable to make enough cholesterol to support normal growth and development both mentally and physically.

Lexie has just started taking her first independent steps at 4 years of age. Lexie requires constant consultations and therapies at home to encourage her development and responds to sensory stimulation from swinging, however public playgrounds carry additional risks, which have since increased as a result of COVID-19.

With the support of our friend Reagan and his dedication to fundraising to help Aussie kids, we were able to grant Lexie a swing set that is equipped with different attachments to assist in her home therapies and a trike to help with her balance and coordination.



There are 16,997 kids in Queensland who have a disability and need daily assistance with self-care, movement or communication¹

How We Help: Variety Heart Scholarships

Variety gives kids scholarships to encourage their achievements and to provide support to help them reach their full potential and follow their dreams. Variety Heart Scholarships support kids with an existing talent across the arts, education and sport.



Poppy was born with cerebral palsy, and lives with Asperger's, ADHD, dyslexia and dyscalculia. Poppy's ultimate dream is to represent Australia in swimming at the Paralympics and the Commonwealth Games.

During COVID-19, training and competitions were cancelled but this did not stop Poppy from training and taking up running to ensure she was at her best for when she could hit the water again. Even though the season was cut short, Poppy was selected for the 2020/21 Queensland Swimming SWD Silver Squad and the 2020/21 Swimming Australia Para Development Squad.

She is very excited and determined to smash her personal best!

Eithen was born a paraplegic with no official diagnosis to this date. Eithen is a very talented wheelchair basketball player. His long-term goal is to be a Paralympian, but short term Eithen wants to be selected in the Australia Spinners team for the 2021 Under 23 Junior Men's Wheelchair Basketball Championships.

Eithen has been a Variety Heart Scholarship recipient 3 years in a row, which has provided him with opportunities to represent Queensland in wheelchair basketball, to be selected for the Australian Under 18s Wheelchair Basketball team and also to be selected to train with the Australian Open Men's team.

Eithen once said Variety is like having another parent in the family supporting him.



Just less than 1 in every 5 Queenslanders has a disability.²

How We Help: Programs

Variety runs programs for kids that encourage inclusion and participation and help to provide opportunities to build their self-confidence and make new friends. Our programs include the Variety Kids Choir, Activate Inclusion Sports Days, Kids Sports Camps, Youth Ambassadors, Just Like You and Bikes for Kids.



The Variety Youth Ambassador program started with a series of online motivational talks for Variety Heart Scholarship recipients aged 14 – 20 years, to support them as they faced the physical and social impacts of COVID-19.

Following the success of the online talks, Variety hosted a few events for the group, including a talk with The Lady Mayoress of Brisbane which provided an opportunity to discuss the group's future plans and a much-needed chance to socialise. The Youth Ambassadors identified that they want to work together to advocate for children and young people living with a disability and raise awareness within the wider community.

"I think the concept is wonderful and who knows one day it might be nice to see one of these amazing recipients take a stand for others. One thing I was thinking

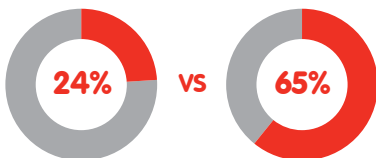
was that the children need more confidence to talk about their journeys. As each of them has a story to tell even if they don't have the confidence to speak up. This might make people understand how many challenges they face every day."

Kylie, proud mum to 18-year-old Kiandra

This year we launched the **Variety Activate Inclusion Sports Day** program. The program provides a free, fun and inclusive day of sport for kids with physical, sensory and intellectual disabilities who might otherwise miss out. We are aiming to increase participation in sport among children with disabilities by improving opportunities and pathways to local clubs.

Our first Activate Inclusion Sports Day was held at Logan City Special School, where 34 students had the opportunity to try basketball, soccer, gymnastics and a circuit course.

"It made me feel great. I loved everything." – Lilly, Activate Inclusion participant, age 11



Participation rates in sport or physical recreation of persons with a disability is 24% compared with a national participation rate of 65%.³

How We Help: Experiences

Variety brings joy and laughter to many kids and their families through Variety Kids Experiences including Variety Kids' Christmas Parties and Sea of Smiles. We also partner with organisations to put smiles on kids' faces through sporting and special events.



During the COVID-19 lockdown in April and May, we held free online **Variety Kids Corner** sessions to help support our families. The weekly sessions included Queensland Ballet dance classes, two book readings, a music class, a dance party with Variety Bashers Aussie Rock and an exercise class with Variety Heart Scholarship recipient Brydi and her dad.

Variety also partnered with the BeCollective platform to arrange personalised video messages from sports stars for a few of our Variety Heart Scholarship recipients.

The sessions and videos were designed to help reduce feelings of isolation for our families and to provide much-needed entertainment and socialising for kids at home.

Paradise Resort Gold Coast celebrated an exciting re-launch this year and generously extended an invitation to some of our Variety families to join in the festivities. There was plenty of entertainment from magicians, Clown Doctors, and more!

Variety kids including Jett, Ollie, Chet, Kohan, Cruz, Lachlan, their siblings and many more had the opportunity to experience the resort's awesome facilities like the waterpark which was a massive hit.

"The joy you put on my boys' faces by involving us is something that will remain a beautiful memory for the rest of my life" – Kohan and Chet's mum, Rachel.



One in six Aussie kids and young people is living in poverty.⁴

How You Helped: Yamaha Variety Jet Trek



The 22nd **Yamaha Variety Jet Trek** travelled from Coffs Harbour to the Sunshine Coast via Grafton, raising \$312,000 to give Aussie kids a fair go. We welcomed grant recipient Arav and his parents on this year's Trek as our special guests. Heartfelt thanks to all our riders and road crew, officials and long-term sponsor Yamaha, and congratulations to our highest fundraiser, Travis Nicholson, who raised an incredible \$22,134!

How you helped: Partnerships

Partners of Variety are a valued part of our family. In 2020, with the support of Transurban Queensland, Variety granted new iPads for students attending Logan City Special School. The iPads provide increased access to online learning, helping students to reach their full potential.

Our focus on digital inclusion was supported by Adani Australia, who generously funded new laptops for the Variety Learning Centre at NRL Cowboys House in Townsville.

The Lord Mayor's Charitable Trust joined with Variety to provide new school equipment for a deserving child and our Youth Ambassadors were excited to attend an evening with special guest, the Lady Mayoress of Brisbane, Nina Schrinner.



How You Helped: Individual Giving

Our **Hero with Heart** program is built around a community of people who empower Aussie kids through regular donations. This financial year, the program increased by 174% with more than 250 people across Queensland coming together to help transform the lives of kids in need, proving there's no limit to what this community can achieve!

Thank you to all our Heroes with Heart. Your ongoing support is crucial to our ability to plan ahead and commit to funding grants, scholarships, experiences and programs to ensure all kids get a fair go, now and in the future.



Special Appeals. Thank you to our generous donors who supported this year's special appeals, through which we raised over \$63,000 to help give Aussie kids a fair go. Your support means the world to us and made it possible to help fund inclusive sporting opportunities to promote inclusion and health for kids with disabilities; back to school essentials such as laptops and school uniforms; and grants such as mobility and medical equipment, learning aids and communication devices for families already facing challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Gifts in Will. We are immensely grateful for all our supporters who have left a gift in their Will to create a lasting change for the future. Variety would like to specially acknowledge the late Laurence John Tracona for the generous gift left in his Will. His legacy is transforming the lives of kids who are disadvantaged, sick or living with a disability because of a decision made many years ago to include Variety in his Will.



How You Helped: Community Fundraising

Highest fundraiser. Miss World Australia contestants are always passionate about helping to give more Aussie kids a fair go and went above and beyond this year despite the COVID-19 challenges. A total of 270 contestants across Australia raised \$181,196 as part of their Beauty with a Purpose charity program.

Pictured is Alexia Zouroudis who raised over \$15,003! Alexia feels amazing knowing that she has helped at least 12 Indigenous students access tutoring in the Variety Learning Centre in Townsville and played a part in bridging the gap in education.

Reegan is Changing One Kid's Life at a Time. 10-year-old Reegan collects cans and bottles, with the help of his family and community. He then uses the Containers for Change refunds to help as many kids as he can!

Most recently, Reegan helped fund a Thermomix for 9-year-old Claire who lives with cri du chat syndrome so she can enjoy nutritious meals that are easy for her to swallow.

In the past year, Reegan has also helped fund a trike, swing set and cubby for 5-year-old Lexie, pictured on page 6, as well as a bath transfer bench and a wheelchair for a young boy who recently sustained significant burn injuries.



Tristin continues breaking barriers. Tristin is a Variety grant recipient, advocate and Ambassador who often has a fitness challenge fundraiser on the go. Since reconnecting with Variety in 2018, Tristin has raised over \$11,500 to give Aussie kids a fair go.

Variety granted Tristin a laptop to support his school education and since then he has been committed to breaking down barriers faced by kids living with a disability.

To help share his message and support Variety this year, Tristin has engaged media, appearing on Channel 10's The Project, and tackled a 10,000 push-ups challenge for the second time.

Thank you for being a wonderful mentor and advocate, Tristin!

How You Helped: Community Fundraising



Caped Crusaders. This year's Bridge to Brisbane was cancelled, but that didn't stop Variety Heart Scholarship recipients and Caped Crusaders, Brydi and Poppy, from doing their own fitness challenges to make a difference to the lives of kids' in need. Brydi took to the Ipswich Cycle Park track in her racing wheelchair, covering 5.31kms in 33 minutes while Poppy swam 5kms straight in 1 hour and 19 minutes. Our virtual team collectively raised over \$1,515 and we are incredibly grateful for their efforts.

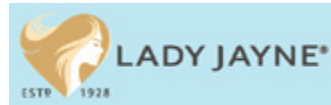
Bad Hair May. 117 Aussies across the country unveiled their hair-raising look for bad Hair May, braving a new colour, cut or style! The community collectively raised over \$38,777 to make a difference to the lives of vulnerable Aussie kids. Pictured is Nathan, the highest bad Hair May fundraiser, rocking his blue wave mohawk. Nathan raised \$2,320 which was dollar matched by his workplace Shelston IP, boosting his total to \$4,640. Thank you to all of our hair-oes!



Aussie Rock – Ladies Big Night Out. The crew from Variety Bash team Aussie Rock are an unstoppable force when it comes to helping Aussie kids! This year, the team held their Ladies Big Night Out fundraiser at the Grandview Hotel, which saw an attendance of around 220 people! This event raised over \$4,000, adding to the team's impressive tally, having raised an incredible \$385,000 throughout their years of involvement with Variety.

Thank you to all our supporters

MAJOR SUPPORTERS



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MAJOR SUPPORTERS

Anonymous
BHP Matched Giving Program
Estate of The Late Laurence
John Tracona

Estate of The Late Vickie Jean
Lenard
Ian Mackay

Merchant Charitable
Foundation Pty Ltd
Office of Liquor and Gaming
Regulation

KEY SUPPORTER DONATIONS \$5000+

AV Partners
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Camdee Industries Pty Ltd
Cash Converters
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Cerner
CHEP Australia
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Day Saints Coomera Stake
Dawson Jockey Club Incorporated
Discovery Parks
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Nancy Isobel Foundation
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Supercheap Auto Pty Ltd
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Tincone Pty Ltd
Transurban
Turner & Townsend
Variety Bash Car 369
Village Roadshow Theme Parks
Yelrah Mining Services Pty Ltd

Thank you to all our supporters

2020 Yamaha Variety Jet Trekkers

PWC 01: Ryan Lacaze

PWC 8: Troy Tenheggeler

PWC 09: Michelle Stafford, Blake McNeight

PWC 13: John Muller, Willie Eccleston

PWC 15: Nathan Gane, Trad Duffy

PWC 17: Joshua Dowling, Craig Reasbeck

PWC 22: Alex Nogarotto, Ashleigh Noble-Proud

PWC 26: Matthew Bowen, Dylan Bowen

PWC 30: Kylie Chandler

PWC 31: Jody Walker, Alan Carsten

PWC 33: Jason Brewer, Cameron Nunn

PWC 39: Craig Brady, Gavin McCutcheon

PWC 42: Tyrone Mahoney, Thomas Mahoney, Mark Cramer

PWC 43: Shaun Thorley, Derek Thorley

PWC 46: Liz Chapman, Abby Bland, Laura French, Jett Bland

PWC 48: Paul Akerman, Philippa Akerman, Tyler Akerman

PWC 49: Skye Akerman

PWC 50: Travis Love, Graham Love, Bobby Love, Kelly Love, Michelle Fleischhacker, Gail Breen

PWC 51: Scott Cassidy, David Cassidy

PWC 52: Peter Locock

PWC 55: Max Lumsden

PWC 56: Perry Rissman, Jessica Rissman, Chad Rissman

PWC 61: Greg Deighton, Paula Deighton

PWC 63: Des Bendall, Joy Forsyth

PWC 64: Darren Bizzell, Lana Bradshaw

PWC 66: Stuart Stern, Tanya Stern, Emmett Stern

PWC 68: Ray Dawson, Pam Dawson

PWC 69: Simon Stratford, Peter Boyle

PWC 70: Brad Welsh, Natalie Welsh, Jaimie Welsh

PWC 74: Paul Locock, Gary Boon

PWC 76: Tim Fowler, Billy Fowler, Mark Fowler

PWC 81: Craig Hickson, Lachlan Hickson, Riley Hickson

PWC 82: Amy Hickson

PWC 84: Joe O'Neill, Kim O'Neill, Caitlyn O'Neill, Christian O'Neill, Wayne O'Neill

PWC 86: Adam Griffin, Amanda Griffin, Jack Griffin, Lily Griffin

PWC 93: Mike Stephenson, Valerie Rogers

PWC 101: Thomas Smith, Anthony Frattini

PWC 108: John Grapsas

PWC 114: Steve Ward, Toni Ward, Will Ward

PWC 115: Rhys Ward

PWC 129: Clint Cook, Matthew Dowling

PWC 136: Gregory Morris, Therese Morris

Thank you to all our supporters

2020 Yamaha Variety Jet Trekkers

PWC 140: Travis Nicholson,
Suzanne Freeman, Alex
Nicholson, Zach Nicholson

PWC 175: Craig Frattini, Lisa
Frattini

PWC 201: Jason Cavanagh, Craig
Cass

PWC 211: Paul Brooker, Kerry
Brooker

PWC 227: Joe Boyagi, Hanneh
Batoure

PWC 248: Shannon McDonald

PWC 250: Paul Smith

PWC 251: Adrian Connors

PWC 252: Daniel Callinan

PWC 253: Greg Murphy

PWC 256: Nathan Sanders,
Camila Nepomuceno

PWC 258: Darren Beale, Shannai
Beale

PWC 259: Peter Jackson, Joeleen
Jackson

PWC 297: Grant Park, James Park

PWC 301: Mark Cavanagh, David
Greig

PWC 315: Michael Siccita, Gary
Zaradic

PWC 353: Rod Betts, Dominique
Betts

PWC 404: Glen Watson, Neville
Watson, Andrew Gill

PWC 408: Mike Walker, Tamara
Walker

PWC 456: Michelle Lumsden,
Merrilyn McCosh, Karyn Martin

PWC 466: Andrew Lumsden

PWC 476: David Lumsden,
Marylou Lumsden

PWC 482: Peter Messer, Angela
Ariens

PWC 510: Paul Munnery, Carolyn
Munnery

PWC 511: Lachlan Munnery

PWC 512: Ellie Munnery

PWC 701: Grantley Jack, Stuart
Nelson

PWC 750: Jason Warneken, Jaren
Warneken, Noah Warneken,
Connor Warneken

PWC 777: Roger Boyagi, Craig
McCarthy

PWC 869: Trent Hamel

PWC 970: Warren McCoid

PWC 971: Luke Johnston, Jesse
Dunster

PWC 973: Kevin Todd, Sophie
Marriott

PWC 999: Jeff Zunker, Wendy
Zunker, Nakita Zunker

PWC 1800: John Crino, John-
Sebastian Crino, Kyle Atkins,
Jeremy Battiato

PWC 1812: Jennifer Hodgkins,
Sally Ottaway

PWC: 1962: Neville Atkinson,
Louise Atkinson

PWC 1999: Peter Thomas, Kim
Thomas

PWC 2016: Aaron O'Brien, Simon
Gillard

Thank you to all our supporters

2020 Yamaha Variety Jet Trekkers

PWC 2110: Stephen O'Brien,
Warren Tallon

PWC 2204: Stephen Orr, Rory
Trigg

PWC 2308: Tayla Welsh, Lewis
Jackson

PWC 2487: Wayne Harris, Rod
Harris

PWC 3030: John Close

PWC 4273: Kris Deighton

PWC 4585: Jodie Rowell, Martin
Webb

YAMAHA: Mick McCabe,
Christian de Wilzem

VIP: Arav Belbase, Ashish
Belbase, Sujana Shrestha

SUPPORT 1: Joshua Marriott

SUPPORT 2: Nathan Gundry,
Kate Olive

MEDIA: Richard Hamer, Jackson
Lee, Frank Souter

MEDIC: John Urquhart, Sarah
Driscoll

RAMP: Olaf Feige, Robbie Miotto,
Russelle Doyle

2020 Miss World Australia

Evannah Saint-Forrester

Brie Bond

Maddy Watson

Windy Wulandari Binti Anif

Destiny Eze

Maegan Cross

Sanchia Fernandes

Breanna Monck

Charlotte Anderson

Paris Bedford

Rebekah Tattam

Talitha Glazbrook

Tatum Marais

Courtney Smith

Emma Healy

Megan Els

Anna Gustavsson

Shelly McCartridge

Georgia Huppatz

Anna Ludwig

Emma Hunt

Krishna Shukla

Chelsea Caffery

Letitia Walker

Rowena Petersen

Chantelle Hall

Mary Holmes

Maddie Hodder

Eden Hughes

Alexia Zouroudis

What's Next

Thanks to you, last year we helped 6,490 kids to unleash their potential. With your continued generosity, we will be able to assist even more kids when they need it the most. These are some of the ways we're increasing our reach and impact next year to give more kids a fair go:

- **Improving Inclusion Through Programs:** Your support gives kids with a disability access to Variety programs that encourage inclusion and participation. You're also giving kids the opportunity to build their self-confidence and make new friends.
 - » *Variety Activate Inclusion Sports Days are run in partnership with local schools, councils and sporting groups. They are a free, fun and inclusive day of sport for kids with physical, sensory and intellectual disabilities. Aimed at kids aged 5 to 17, the days are an opportunity to have a go in a fun and supportive environment with specialised coaches on hand.*
 - » *Variety Kids Sports Camps are three-day overnight camps that provide kids aged 6 to 13 years with a disability the opportunity to try a variety of different sports and determine which ones they enjoy and can play.*
 - » *Bikes for Kids is a program that provides a priceless opportunity to experience the joy of gifting a bike to a deserving or disadvantaged child so they can feel the freedom and independence of owning their very own bike.*
- **Developing Future Leaders Through Programs:** Your support helps kids to develop leadership skills, empathy toward others and self-confidence. You're also helping to reduce inequality and discrimination by ensuring that all kids have a fair go, regardless of ability, background or gender.
 - » *Just Like You is designed with the goal of putting a stop to bullying and creating empathy for people of all abilities. The Just Like You program builds understanding, acceptance and inclusion of those living with a disability. Face-to-face workshops are presented by professional facilitators, each with a disability.*

The power of the Variety family can't be underestimated. Imagine a future where every child, regardless of circumstance or ability, can be supported, included and equal. Please join us in making this vision possible. We can't do it without you!

Project Unleash

All kids have amazing potential inside of them. But for our kids, it can be hard for people to see.

Barriers like living with disabilities or financial burdens can distract the everyday person from seeing what's really inside.

Project Unleash shines a new light on our kids, offering up a new perspective.

Through video storytelling, Project Unleash takes viewers inside the world of two amazing kids that Variety has supported.

Each child is partnered with an artist, who is given the challenge of unleashing the magic inside the child that the outside world may not see – so that the world can not only see them, but also understand who they truly are.

Check out the song Mel Dyer wrote in just one week to unleash Harry on the world at: bit.ly/ProjectUnleash



Moment of Joy

Nora, 3, was overjoyed to receive a new trampoline thanks to generous Variety supporters like you. The trampoline assists her in learning to control different muscles and limbs simultaneously, as well as improves her sense of balance and bilateral motor skills.



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