



# Impact Report 2016/17

Variety – the Children's Charity VIC





**Janette Connolly**  
**CEO**

Things are getting bigger and better at Variety -the Children's Charity Victoria.

2017 saw the triumphant return of the Variety Bikes 4 Kids program spearheaded by Senator Derryn Hinch, which raised over \$53,000.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors and supporters, we were able to gift 200 children with brand new bikes at a special presentation at Hisense Arena. The presentation was a unique experience for our donors which allowed them to meet and greet the children who were receiving the bikes.

We also launched our brand new Variety SHINE Intensive Program which gives children with language and learning problems the help they need to keep up with their mates in the classroom.

The inaugural SHINE program will take place in January, during the school holidays, and we look forward to welcoming more children into the course in 2019.



**Paul Manning**  
**Chief Barker**

It has been an extraordinary 12 months for Variety - the Children's Charity Victoria. Together we have impacted more than double the number of children; increasing from 9,153 to 24,946 and thanks to your generous support, we have also increased our total amount granted by \$71,362.

With a focus on growth and our future direction we have launched our newly refined brand and Kids Support Programs which has seen an increase in the diversity of conditions we're supporting.

We have welcomed a number of new Board Members this year, who bring with them a wealth of knowledge and experience in their chosen fields. 2017 also saw us foster new partnerships which helped us broaden our reach into regional Victoria.

As we enter 2018, we will continue to search for new opportunities and strive to grow in every aspect, always carrying with us the ethos that all kids deserve a fair go, regardless of ability or circumstance.





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

So we help  
kids achieve their  
full potential,  
regardless of ability  
or background.



By delivering Variety Kids Support  
through:

#### GRANTS

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



Equipment  
Grants



Program  
Grants



Sunshine  
Coach  
Grants

#### PROGRAMS

We run programs to  
educate & empower  
kids in need.



#### 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 Victoria



We granted:  
**\$1,315,891**  
to help kids  
in need

We provided:  
**48 different**  
kinds of  
equipment

We impacted:  
**24,946**  
kids



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

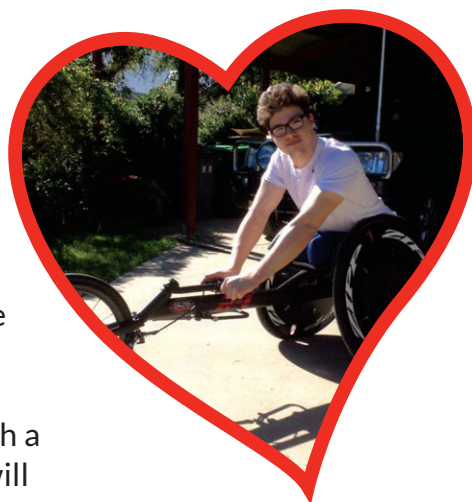


### Max

Life without speech was all Max knew until he was five years old. Despite being one of eight children, he was non-verbal and his parents feared he may never speak. Now eight years old, Max can talk but he is often hard to understand due to living with Autism, as well as an intellectual disability. In October, Max attended our Variety Bikes 4 Kids presentation with his mum Mandy. “When Max got his bike he hugged the man who handed it to him and said, *I love it man, I love it so much*, it really made me cry,” she said, astounded that something as simple as a bike could elicit such a clear, emotional response from her son.

### Sam

Being in a wheelchair would slow some people down, but not Sam. Having undergone multiple operations throughout his life, he hasn’t let Spina Bifida hold him back. In 2013, Sam got his first taste of wheelchair racing when he borrowed a specialised racing chair and in 2014 Variety awarded him the Variety Young Sports Achiever Award for his incredible achievements. In 2017, Sam took his first overseas trip, where he represented Australia at the World Para-Athletics Junior Championships, bringing home one silver and three bronze medals. Variety is proud to have been able to provide Sam with a brand new racing wheelchair to call his own, which we hope will help him to reach his dreams of making it to the Paralympics.



### Cooper

For nine year old Cooper, being diagnosed with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) means that he has to deal with chronic pain in his lower legs and feet. This degenerative condition causes severe muscle weakness and can also bring on breathing difficulties and heart problems. Most boys with DMD lose the ability to walk independently around the time they turn 10, but thanks to our incredible donors, Variety was able to provide Cooper with a Powered Standing Wheelchair. This wheelchair gives Cooper access to bench tops, desks and counter tops, and enables him to have more face-to-face conversations with his peers, teachers and family. Normally a shy boy, Cooper couldn’t wait to take the chair to school to show his friends his new found independence in the playground.

### Ace

Aicardi-Goutieres Syndrome has calcified parts of Ace’s brain, resulting in him living with severe cerebral palsy and an intellectual disability. Ace needs help to move, communicate, eat and to bathe; basically all aspects of his day to day life. Ace is at significant risk of developing spinal problems, along with a high risk of food going into his lungs while eating if he is not seated in a supported, safe position. Since Variety provided him with a Wombat Supportive Seating System, Ace has been able to maintain a healthy posture for an extended period of time and eat safely. This chair can be adjusted to suit a range of table heights, and it can be rolled between rooms to make life easier for both him and his carers.



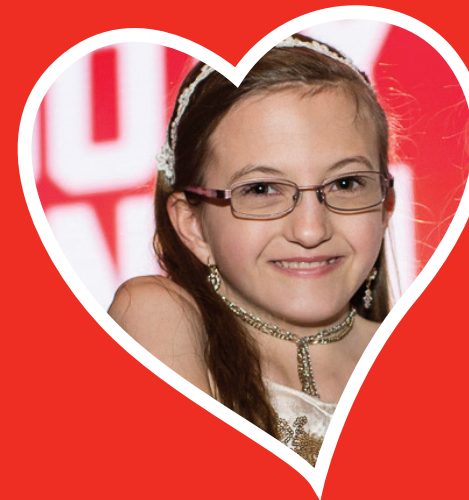


## Finn

Cheeky three year old Finn is full of beans despite living with a rare genetic disorder which is characterised by contractures of his muscles, low muscle tone and a developmental delay. He can't stand without support, let alone walk or run like other kids his age. Variety was able to provide Finn with a walking frame at this critical stage of development, which will enable him to explore the world around him. According to Finn's mum, when Finn got his walker, he propelled himself over to where his sister was drawing and pulled her hair. In response, Madison got up and put the brakes on her suddenly mobile brother!

## Hayley

Variety first met this gorgeous girl when she was just three years old. We watched her take her first steps with the help of a David Hart Walker, provided by our generous donors. Previously restricted to commando crawling or rolling herself into a sitting position on the floor, the walker gave Hayley the sense of freedom and independence that she had been waiting years for. Ten years and four pieces of equipment from Variety later, Hayley has blossomed into a fiercely determined young lady who doesn't let anything hold her back. She participates in Riding for the Disabled and has won numerous accolades. Hayley even holds fundraising events of her own to give back to Variety in the hope of helping other kids with special needs just like her.



## Anna

Around the Variety office, Anna is most commonly referred to as the future Prime Minister of Australia. At only 127cm tall, this bright, confident young lady has a personality that more than makes up for her small stature. Living with Arthrogryposis Multiplex Congenita means that Anna has limited mobility and range of movement due to a lack of muscle development and her spinal vertebrae being fused. Variety was able to provide Anna with an electric scooter, allowing her to move quickly between classes at high school, reducing fatigue and increasing the amount of time she can spend learning in the classroom. It also has handy on-board storage for her school books and folds down so it can be transported with her on school excursions and camps which means she can engage in extra curricular activities with her peers.

## Lachie

Lachie is a delightful boy with a great sense of humour and a cheeky grin, but living with Autism and ADHD has made it hard for him to concentrate for extended periods in the classroom. Lachie also has trouble forming words which has been formally diagnosed as speech apraxia. This means it's hard for his brain to communicate with his mouth, so his words come out sounding a little strange sometimes. Lachie was struggling to keep up with his peers in the classroom, but thanks to Variety, he now has an iPad which helps his Occupational Therapist, teachers and family to track his progress, ensuring Lachie reaches important educational milestones and achieves his full potential.





# How you helped

## Hair With Heart

This year, brave Isabella raised almost \$400 and cut her long locks for Variety. "Everyone deserves to feel confident with their appearance and if my hair is going to help a child feel more confident in themselves then I believe I, and many other brave people, have done a great thing."



## Community Fundraising

"As we watched Finn having a ball on his new chariot, it struck me how this specialist device was transforming not only his life, but also importantly that of his whole family." Ken asked for donations in lieu of presents for his birthday and he raised over \$5000 to provide Finn with his walker.



## Variety Bikes 4 Kids

Donors right across Victoria gave generously to raise over \$53,000 for the Variety Bikes 4 Kids Program which was spearheaded by Variety supporter, Senator Derryn Hinch. We held a unique presentation at Hisense Arena, which gave our donors the chance to gift the bikes directly to 200 children who needed them.



## Corporate Supporters

"AreYouSelling.com.au has always been committed and humbled to donate to Variety. We believe it's a great charity, keep up the good work!" said Daniel Werzberger, director and co-founder, when asked about their support of Variety. Supporting us since 2015, AreYouSelling.com.au has donated over \$18,000. Thank you Daniel and team for your amazing commitment!



# How you helped

## Corporate Partnerships

Ashley Ralph, General Manager of Clipsal by Schneider Electric, ran 100 km per day for 10 days between Melbourne and Adelaide. He raised over \$425,000 on his journey which enabled Variety to provide Echuca Specialist School with a brand new Variety Sunshine Coach to get their students out and about in the community.



## Variety Victoria Turns 20

In 2017, we celebrated 20 years of helping Victorian kids. We went back to where it all began and paid homage to our roots, holding the event at the State Theatre. Past Chairs, supporters, sponsors and Variety families all joined us to celebrate 20 wonderful years of changing the lives of Victorians in need.



## Variety 4WD Trek

After the 2017 Variety 4WD Trek, Corinne was bestowed with 'Legend' status, having completed 12 events. This makes her one of the longest-serving 4WD 'trekkers' in Victoria. Corinne has been organising the Trek since 2006 after being an entrant herself. We salute you Corinne!



## Volunteering

National Australia Bank is the largest of all our Corporate Volunteering supporters. The NAB staff single-handedly fill the volunteer contingent at the Variety Great Grand Final Lunch and provide in excess of 200 volunteers at the Variety Kids Xmas Party each year.



# How you helped

## Variety Bash

Car 3844 is a stalwart of the Variety Bash, and has taken on a number of themes over the years. Helen, Jill, Glenda and Heather have racked up an incredible 75 years of 'Bashing' between them. What's even more incredible is the fact that they have raised over \$195,000 in that time. What an amazing effort!



## Hair With Heart

"People have always commented on how beautiful my hair is and over the last 2 years I have wanted to donate it so that someone who has none can feel special, confident & beautiful," Cleopatra said. We tip our hats to this young lady and all our hair donors who give a gift of joy to kids who have lost their hair due to conditions like Alopecia.



## Ambassadors

You may know him for his Dad jokes on evening TV, but Mike Larkan has in fact been supporting Variety since 2009. Mike films weather crosses at our events, he has been the ambassador for the Variety Santa Fun Run and he's always willing to step in and help out. We can't thank him enough and we are so grateful for his ongoing support.



## Variety Bash

Car 529 - The Blues Brothers - were the overall winners on the 2017 Variety Bash to Fraser Island. These guys are now on a mission, having signed up for the 2018 Variety Brats Bash, which means they will be hitting the road with their families to experience everything this great country has to offer - now if that's not Variety spirit, we don't know what is!



# Thank you to all our supporters

## MAJOR PARTNERS



## MEDIA PARTNERS





# Thank you to all our supporters

## KEY PARTNERS

Andrew Dean Fildes Foundation  
Are You Selling  
Beloka Water  
Cassandra Gantner Foundation  
Commonwealth Bank Community Grants  
Dromana Estate  
Etihad Airways  
Famous Insurance  
Further Mortgage & Finance  
Jack Rabbit Vineyard  
Jalna Dairy Foods  
Jamberry  
Kilmore Racing Club  
MG Motors Australia  
National Finance & Loans  
National Storage

Sofitel Melbourne on Collins

Tivoli Jewellers



## MOTORING EVENT SUPPORTERS

Ambulance Victoria  
IOR Petroleum  
Isuzu Trucks  
Joch Motors  
Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board (MFB)  
Patterson Cheney Dandenong Service Department  
Prestige Off-Road  
Roof Extenda  
Trans Gears & Diff's  
WM Waste Management Services

## NATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Aroona Springs Water  
Club Clipsal  
Discovery Holiday Parks  
Future Generation Investment Company (FGX)  
Gloria Jeans Coffee  
John Sands  
Miss World Australia  
Seeley International  
Skating At Festival  
Tyres 4 U



## THANK YOU TO OUR BOARD MEMBERS, EVENT SUB-COMMITTEES AND OUR OTHER DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS.

WE SIMPLY COULD NOT DO WHAT WE DO, WITHOUT PEOPLE LIKE YOU.

# Thank you to all our supporters

## SUPPORTERS

Action Events  
AFL  
Anaconda  
Audio Visual Dynamics  
Australian Institute of Music  
Australian Toy Association  
Bee's Knee's Australia  
Blind Tiger Organic Gin  
Caltex Kalkallo  
Captain Baxter  
Casa D'Abruzzo Club  
Casa De Vinos  
City of Melbourne  
Cobbs Popcorn  
DFO  
Dom Chambers  
Encore St Kilda Beach  
Entertainment Book

Estee Lauder Corporate Store

Eureka Sky Deck  
First Samuel  
Flinders Wharf  
Grill'd South Melbourne  
Ground Swell Music Festival  
Happily Contended  
Huntingdale Sound & Lighting  
Kay & Burton  
Knights Roses  
Lark Distillery  
LeasePlan  
Levantine Hill  
Logistic Events Australia  
Lombard  
Melbourne & Olympic Parks  
Melbourne Gin Company  
Melbourne Storm  
Mr Moto

NAB Corporate Volunteering

Nova Star Productions  
Phileas Fogg Trio  
Pinoak Capital  
Rapid Relief  
Ride Sunday  
Smudge Publications  
The Art Centre, Melbourne  
The West Winds Gin  
Toy Networkx  
Victoria Police  
Vinified  
Water Rat Hotel South Melbourne  
Wheelton Group  
Young Family Foundation



# What's Next

We want to reach more kids, families and organisations by broadening our reach across Victoria. We want to raise more funds so that we can facilitate more grants and change even more lives in 2018.

For us this means using our partnerships to spread the word about Variety, diversifying our income streams and taking on every single opportunity that comes our way. We're not going to rest on our laurels, we're going to work harder, smarter and most importantly we're going to work together to create the change we want to see in the world. We want to make sure every child can reach their goals and achieve their full potential, regardless of ability or background.



## 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 the Variety office on 03 8698 3900 today.**





## Moment of Joy

"The words "thank you" just don't seem enough to describe how grateful we are for the incredible depth of joy, relief and change in life circumstances Variety has given our family, and in such a loving and respectful way."

- The Jacksons -



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**variety**  
the children's charity