



Impact Report 2018

Variety – the Children's Charity Victoria



variety
the children's charity



Our Year

What a fantastic year 2018 has been for Variety Victoria.

We have held 10 major fundraising events and granted over \$1.6 million, directly impacting the lives of over 12,000 kids across Victoria.

2018 also marked 90 years since Variety was founded and we celebrated with a special event at the majestic Plaza Ballroom in Melbourne's CBD. We were joined by donors, sponsors and supporters for a night of fun, frivolity and of course, some fundraising.

Thanks to Variety Ambassador, Senator Derryn Hinch, and the continued generosity of our community, our Variety Bikes for Kids program raised more than \$84,000 to provide brand new bikes to over 200 kids who had never experienced the joy of owning their own bike.

The inaugural Variety SHINE Intensive Program took place in January 2018, offering relief and hope to 125 kids who are living with a broad range of learning difficulties. We look forward to expanding the Variety SHINE Intensive Program to help even more kids in years to come.

In 2019, with the assistance of our donors, Variety aims to impact even more kids, families and organisations throughout Victoria, by delivering grants, programs, scholarships and events. We look forward to sharing highlights of our impact with you throughout the coming year.

Our Variety community continues to be comprised of the most passionate and dedicated people you could ever meet. They give up countless hours of their time to volunteer at our events, raise integral funds for us and always go above and beyond to help us assist Victorian kids in need.

We thank all of you, from the bottom of our hearts for the incredible efforts you undertake each year to support us.

Janette Connolly, CEO

Paul Manning, Chair





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

**So we provide kids and
families with access to
life-changing equipment
to help them achieve their
full potential, regardless of
ability or background.**





We deliver our support through:

GRANTS

We 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 kids
impacted by Variety across
Australia this year**

111,712

And a better life for the kids of Victoria



We granted:

\$1,666,468
to help kids
in need

We provided:

31 different
kinds of
equipment

We directly impacted:

12,290
kids

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

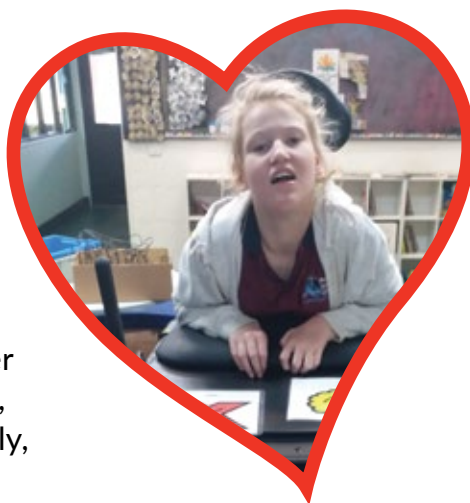


Ted

Ted is 7 years old and lives with autism, anxiety and sensory processing disorder. This means that Ted struggles to regulate his emotions, which sometimes results in him rolling on the floor, yelling or withdrawing into small spaces. His mental health, friendships, classwork and even his safety are all being impacted by his broad array of conditions. Variety recently granted Ted an assistance dog called Luca, to help him recognise when he is becoming over stimulated or anxious. Luca will help Ted develop an awareness of others and how they are feeling, which in turn will help him create better connections with his friends, family and teachers.

Anna

12-year-old Anna lives with severe quadriplegic Cerebral Palsy and is dependent on a full-time carer for all her daily needs. Anna participates in daily hydrotherapy and physiotherapy and must be pushed in a wheelchair to get around at home and school. To assist her carers, and give her more opportunities to stand throughout the day, Variety provided Anna with a standing frame. The frame allows Anna to sit in a fully supported position, and then stand with the help of an hydraulic lever. The standing frame will cater for her changing physical needs and help to improve her muscle tone, bone density and increase her ability to interact with her family, teachers and peers.





Elijah

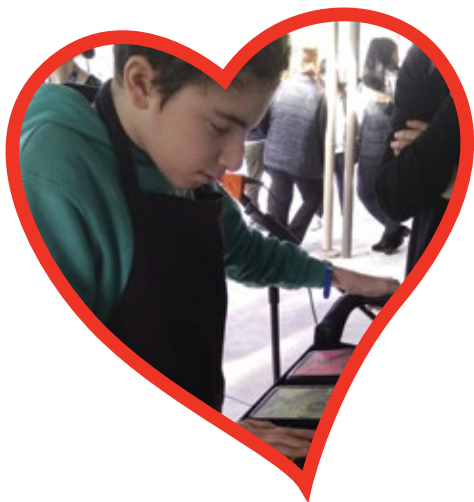
Elijah has 1p36 Deletion Syndrome which means he lives with low muscle tone, vision impairment, Cerebral Palsy and a number of other conditions that affect his daily living. For his safety, Elijah currently rides in a booster seat in the family car. He can't maintain correct posture in his car seat because he has outgrown it, and he is at significant risk of choking due to the harness positioning.

Variety recently granted Elijah a Carrot Car Seat so that he can travel comfortably and safely in the family car. The seat is fitted with a secure buckle that he can't unclip on his own, and the straps are adjustable to provide him with support in maintaining correct posture as he grows. The seat will help give his parents peace of mind that their son is safe, comfortable and secure while they are driving.

Liam

5-year-old Liam loves being active. But due to living with Cerebral Palsy on the right side of this body he is sometimes limited in how he can move around. The muscles in his lower right leg are particularly tight, which results in his toes touching the ground first when he walks. This means Liam is constantly at risk of tripping, and cannot safely run and play with his friends. Variety recently granted Liam a light weight ankle-foot orthotic (AFO) to help correct the position of his foot and ankle when he walks. This means that while Liam's muscles learn to correct themselves, he can safely run, jump and play with his friends and be more active with his family.





Burwood East SDS

Burwood East Special Developmental School (SDS) provides educational programs for kids from Prep to Year 12 who have special needs. Many of the students that attend the school experience additional challenges with learning as a result of altered sensory needs. Variety recently helped Burwood East SDS upgrade their multi-sensory room which is designed to provide children with the sensory input they require in order to feel organised, calm or alert. The renovations will enable students to meet all their tactile, auditory and visual input needs, which in turn will assist them to achieve emotional regulation and increased independence.

Ciana

13-year-old Ciana has a very strong work ethic. She lives with a severe vision impairment, has a blood disorder called Pyroluria and suffers from anaphylaxis. The one thing that has helped Ciana throughout her psychological and emotional therapy is Irish Dancing - in which she is a gifted competitor. Ciana won a place in the All Scotland Championships and the Great Britain Championships for Irish Dancing but her family couldn't afford to send her overseas to compete. That's where Variety stepped in. We granted Ciana a Variety Heart Scholarship for Existing Talent, which will help to cover the competition entry fees, flights and accommodation, so that she can participate in both championships.



Verney Road School

Verney Road School provides a meaningful education for kids aged 2-18 who have mild to severe intellectual disabilities. Many of their students also live with additional needs such as sensory issues, physical impairments or challenging behaviours. Verney Road School had two Variety Sunshine Coaches that were over 15 years old and in desperate need of repair. The school relies heavily on the use of the coaches to provide their students with access to the local community. Variety recently granted not one, but TWO brand new Variety Sunshine Coaches to Verney Road, so that they could rest assured that their students would be reliably and safely transported out and about in the community.



How you helped

Hair With Heart

Maddisyn decided to go the big chop this year. "I woke up and decided it was time to cut my hair off and donate it to someone who needs it more than I do".

Thank you Maddisyn for donating your hair and helping us to support more kids in need!



Variety 4WD Adventure

Paul and Tracey Dibb are stalwart Variety 4WD Adventure entrants who in 2018 received the Highest Fundraiser award. Their company - Prestige Sunroofs and Off-road is also a major sponsor of the 4WD Adventure.

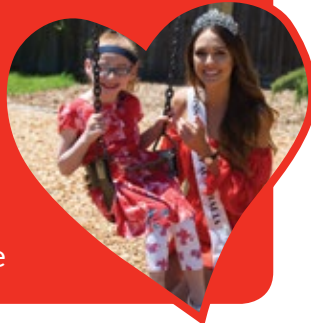
Thank you Paul & Tracey for your incredible support!



Charity of Choice

Huge thanks go to our 2018 Charity of Choice partners who so generously support us in our mission to give all kids a fair go:

- Skating At Festival
- Miss World
- Leaseplan
- MotorEx
- Further Finance
- Eat Street Melbourne



Individual Donors

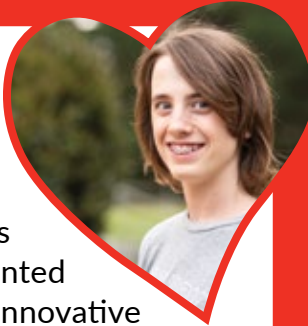
A couple of times a year, we reach out to our incredible community of supporters to help us ensure two of our major programs for kids - Variety Bikes for Kids and Variety Shine Intensive Program - can continue to bring both joy and positive impact to kids in need. Thank you for your generosity!



How you helped

Community Fundraisers

When Jedd discovered the Variety Bikes for Kids program, he knew he wanted to help out! He had the innovative idea of creating an art auction. He asked generous artists from across Victoria to donate works to help him raise funds for the program. Jedd's incredible efforts were even recognised on TV!



Variety Bash

The Land Monkeys in Car 3006 participated in their first Variety Bash in 2018. Harvey, Peter, Gerrard, Brad and Daniel raised over \$120,000 which is an incredible achievement for a rookie team!

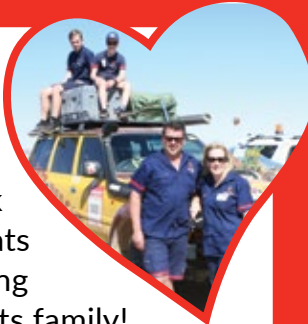
The boys are back on board for the 2019 event and are looking to smash their previous record!



Variety Brats Bash

The McKenzies of Car 000 are ready to embark on their 10th Variety Brats Bash in 2019 - an amazing achievement for any Brats family!

The McKenzie boys, Ryan & Jai, have become great leaders on the event and love encouraging the younger generations to get involved in giving!



Volunteering

Helen and Ian Cornish have been volunteering with Variety for 15 years. Every week they come into the office to help us prepare for events, organise our warehouse, make phone calls and help us out with general admin! Thank you Helen & Ian, we really couldn't do what we do without people like you!

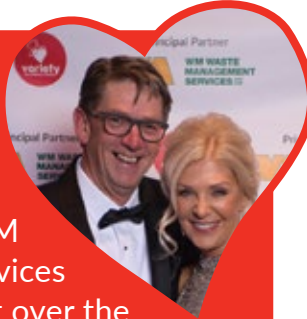


How you helped

Corporate Sponsors

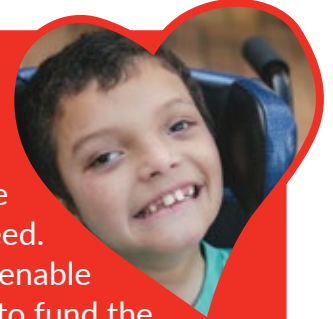
We can't thank Mark and Karyn Jeffs from WM Waste Management Services enough for their support over the years.

Not only have they both participated in eight Variety Bash events, but they have also signed on as major sponsors!



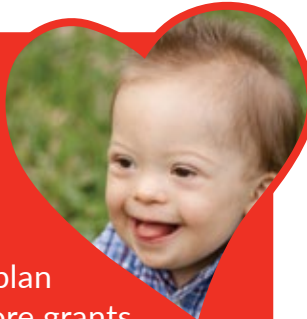
Big Hearts

Our major donors make an immediate difference to the lives of kids in need. These big hearted gifts enable our Kids Support Team to fund the next deserving family who is desperate for our help. Our grants fund specialist equipment, educational resources and more, for kids who would otherwise do without.



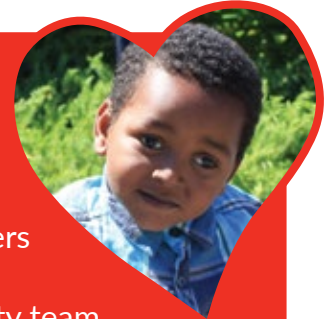
Heroes with Heart

Our Hero with Heart program means we can count on your regular donations to be able to plan ahead and offer even more grants, scholarships, specialist equipment and more to kids in need. By supporting Variety with your regular donation, you are helping kids have a fair go in life, now and into the future.



Forever Hearts

Variety Forever Hearts are an exclusive group of like-minded supporters who stand shoulder to shoulder with the Variety team – today and in the future – to make a difference to the lives of kids in need. By including a gift to Variety in your Will, you can leave a lasting legacy for future generations.



Thank you to our Major Partners

3AW

ACE Radio

Action Events

Ambulance Victoria

Aroona Spring Water

Audio Visual Designs

**Australian Toy
Association**

**Australian Traffic
Network**

Budget

Crown Melbourne

The Dent Family

Encore Productions

FGX

First Samuel

iSentia

ISUZU Trucks

Kia Australia

Lion

Logistics Events Australia

**Melbourne Convention &
Exhibition Centre**

Melbourne Fire Brigade

**Professional PC Support
(PPS)**

Seeley International

Sheen Panel Service

**Sofitel Melbourne on
Collins**

Tivoli Jewellers

Toy Biz

**WM Waste
Management Services**

Thank you to our Supporting Partners

400 Gradi	Discovery Holiday Parks	Patterson Cheney Service
AFL	Famous Insurance	Patties Pies
Are You Selling	Fiona Byrne	Phileas Fogg Trio
Barry Plant	Flying Brick Cider	Prestige Sunroofs and Off-road
Bee's Knee's	Fun Flight	QLD Ballet
Beloka	IOR Fuel	Razzamatazz Show
Big Balloon	Joch Motors	Red Spice Road
Chep Pallean Solutions	John Sands	Roof Extenda
Chris' Body Works	Melbourne & Olympic Parks	The Royal Melbourne Show
Cobbs Popcorn	Melbourne Storm	Trans Gears & Diffs
Cooper Tyres	Mitsubishi	Tyres4U
DFO	NEP	

Thank you to our Affiliates

After Dark Theatre	Dom Chambers	National Storage
Anaconda	Dromana Estate	Rapid Relief
Carousel	Microhire	Stonnington School of Dance

Thank you to the following Trusts and Foundations

Andrew Dean Fildes Foundation
Ltd

Cassandra Gantner Foundation
Commonwealth Bank Community
Grants

City of Melbourne

Thank you to our Corporate Volunteering Partners

ANZ

Optus

Broadspectrum

State Revenue Office

Department of Education and
Training

Telstra

Department of Treasury and
Finance

Lion

National Australia Bank



What's Next

We want to assist 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 2019.

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.



Kids Support Highlight

Variety SHINE Intensive Program

Sometimes it's hard to keep up with your mates at school... that's why we run the Variety SHINE Intensive Program to ensure all kids get a fair go in the classroom.

We all remember how hard it was when we couldn't keep up with our peers. And when it is our child, or a member of our family who is struggling, we do everything in our power to assist. But for some parents, the best available resources are out of reach.

That's why it's so important that together we continue to fund this life changing program, so we can stand up for kids and families to make sure they get a fair go in life.

The Variety SHINE Intensive Program is a condensed education experience ensuring all kids get an opportunity to overcome language and learning problems and to keep up with their mates in the classroom.

Held in Port Melbourne under the directorship of Dr Carl Parsons, the one-week-long January program provides opportunities for children with a range of learning disabilities to access high-quality multidisciplinary team services. This life-changing program provides intensive assessment, therapy and support for children aged 4 – 14 years at no cost to families.



Here's just one of the many moments of joy
YOU made possible this year.

THANK YOU



w variety.org.au/vic
t 03 8698 3900
e info@varietyvic.org.au

f @varietyvic
t @varietyvic
i @varietyvic



variety
the children's charity