



Impact Report 2016/17

Variety – the Children's Charity of WA





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The Why



James Komninos

Chairman (Chief Barker)

Variety - the Children's Charity of WA

Each year, thousands of WA kids who are sick, disadvantaged or have special needs benefit from the support of Variety WA. It has been my privilege to be part of an organisation which makes such a tangible and positive impact to the lives of WA kids and families when they need it most.

In 2017, thanks to your generosity and commitment, Variety gave 10,293 kids across WA a fair go by providing equipment, programs, scholarships or memorable life experiences. Another 26,469 kids directly benefited from ongoing programs and projects funded in previous years. With \$1,314,041 in support provided to kids in need, the impact of your support will be felt throughout WA for many years to come.

On behalf of Variety WA, I would like to thank all our Members, committees, event participants, donors, volunteers and sponsors for their generous support. We couldn't do it without you and we look forward to empowering even more WA kids in 2018.



Michael Smith

Patron

Variety - the Children's Charity of WA

I am writing this message from Pakistan where I have been visiting families, the most recent one with a most beautiful daughter that was glowing despite her disability. The loving support she had from the three generations living in the family home made me think of how our amazing supporters of Variety are a family lifting the lives of special children to a better place.

We live in such a privileged part of the world, but with all our success we still rely on the extraordinary efforts of the Variety team and supporters to bring comfort, hope, opportunity and fun to families.

I know you are inspired and find wonderful satisfaction in this, but know that you are truly appreciated.

On behalf of Variety kids and their families, thank you.



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



Organisation
Grants



Sunshine
Coach
Grants

PROGRAMS

We run programs to
educate and empower
kids in need.



Variety
Charity
Link

Variety
Youth
Choir

Variety
Goanna
Park
Camp

SCHOLARSHIPS

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



KIDS' EVENTS

We hold
events to
engage and bring
joy to
kids in need
and 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 WA



Total amount
granted in 2017

\$1,314,041

In 2017 we
directly supported:

10,293
kids
in need

We also impacted
an additional:

26,469
kids in WA
(through ongoing grants
funded in previous years)

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



Cayla

8 year old Cayla lives with cerebral palsy, affecting both her speech and motor skills, and has been a participant at our Variety WA Motor Mouth Camp for two years. In 2017 Cayla was also our Variety Bash ambassador. Being involved with our Variety events and Variety Motor Mouth Camp has not only given Cayla and her family the skills to use her communication device to its full capacity but taken her confidence to new heights! Cayla's Mum said, "Cayla absolutely loved being your Ambassador for the 2017 Variety WA Bash and meeting all the people, fun characters and seeing the cars!" It's been one amazing ride in 2017, with Cayla never failing to bring a smile to the face of hundreds of Variety supporters.

Jaimie, Hayley and Scott

Jaimie, Hayley and Scott are three siblings living with muscular dystrophy who have been part of the Variety family for over six years. In April, Variety contributed to a brand new wheelchair accessible van, which has made not only an incredible difference to their day to day lives, but given them the freedom to get out and about together as a family. Narelle said, "This is such a blessing. Life in general will become so much easier with transport for Jaimie's electric chair, plus Hayley's chair. Previously Jaimie had to leave her electric wheelchair at school, meaning she couldn't independently move around the house. Having her chair at home has made such a big difference to her independence".



Thomas

Thomas is one of our Variety Heart Scholarship recipients for 2017, who was awarded a scholarship to pursue his passion for wheelchair basketball. Thomas received his first Variety Hearts Scholarship last year and has already achieved so much - playing in the state league and ranking 16th best player nationally on an adult level. Now training with the Australian Paralympic Team, he intends to compete at an international level and has his sights set on the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics. The sky is the limit!

Alice

Alice lives with glycine encephalopathy, a rare metabolic disorder which affects independent movement, balance and coordination. In 2017, Alice received her brand new modified tricycle. Not only has the trike improved her muscle strength and motor skills but has also given her the freedom and independence to get out in the sunshine and enjoy family bike rides and outings. There's no stopping her now!





Variety Motor Mouth Camp

16 school aged kids who use augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) aids to communicate attended our 4 day Variety Motor Mouth Camp at Point Walter Reserve with their parents and siblings. This camp combines fun, intensive therapy and training to kids and families and helps open up a whole new world of communication. Thank you to the dedicated committee, and volunteer Speech Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Teachers and EAs. The camp would also not be possible without the generous support of P&N Bank, Newman's Own Foundation and individual donors.

Variety Hearts Scholarships

The Variety Hearts Scholarships Program recognises the inspirational talents of WA kids who are living with disadvantage, disability or chronic illness to overcome adversity and reach their potential. In 2017, 34 talented kids received scholarships in the arts, music or sport at a special presentation at Heath Ledger Theatre. We look forward to seeing them all go on to achieve great things. We would like to say a special thank you to our sponsors; Future Generation Investment Fund, The Bendat Family Foundation and The Whately Foundation for their continued support.



Variety Youth Choir

For 19 years, the Variety Youth Choir has been entertaining audiences whilst enriching the lives of its many talented young performers. The Choir brings members together across diverse backgrounds, including some with a disability or disadvantage, all united by a passion and commitment to achieving the highest standard of song and dance. The choir not only increases self-confidence but provides a great social network for kids who may otherwise miss out. In 2017, the Variety Youth Choir performed over 15 shows with highlights including the IGA Carols by Candlelight for Variety.

Variety Goanna Park Adventure Camp

Each year Variety kids from all over Australia make the trip to Darwin for an incredible camp. The program gives young people with special needs the opportunity to experience the fun and personal achievement of an adventure camp. A group of 12 WA teenagers experienced new and exciting activities such as abseiling, rock climbing and riding motorbikes. The camp helps kids develop independence, confidence and resilience by encouraging them to take on new challenges and step outside their comfort zone. Thank you to Lotterywest and all the fantastic volunteer carers for making this camp possible.





Variety Charity Link

In 2017, we were proud to have incorporated the Variety Charity Link Program into our Variety Kid Support Program. With an estimated one in six Australian kids living in poverty today there is a real and immediate unmet need. The Variety Charity Link program harnesses the power of hundreds of volunteers to deliver much needed assistance to WA kids and families. In 2016/2017 over 4,500 winter blankets kept families warm over winter, over 3,000 Christmas presents put smiles on kids faces who may otherwise miss out and over 2,500 back to school kits gave kids the tools they need to succeed in their education.

Variety Kids Xmas Party

Each year the Variety Kids Xmas Party puts smiles on the faces of hundreds of Variety kids and their families. In 2016, over 500 kids and families enjoyed a day at Perth Zoo interacting with reptiles and being treated to face painting, amusements, stage shows and a special performance by the Variety Youth Choir. The day is a welcome respite for families, giving them the opportunity to get into the Christmas spirit and enjoy a relaxing, fun and inclusive afternoon. The 2016 Variety Kids Xmas Party was made possible thanks to The Stan Perron Charitable Trust, Lotterywest, Refresh and many other individual donors.



How you helped

Variety Bash

The 2017 Variety Bash took the 'Long Way Round' from Perth to Fremantle travelling over 2,000km via the Goldfields. The 7 day adventure brought fun, colour and smiles to many regional kids along the way and included the presentation of a \$72,000 playground to the Kalgoorlie Health Campus. Together the participants raised over \$605,549.



Variety 4WD Challenge

The Variety 4WD Challenge took 51 participants for a 7 day off road adventure from Dongara to the spectacular Dirk Hartog Island. The event raised over \$200,610. Highlights included the unique Principality of Hutt River Province, entertaining the kids at Useless Loop and the breathtaking 4WD tracks of Dirk Hartog Island.



Variety Creative Car Cruise

The Variety Creative Car Cruise took to the road in March cruising 1,009km in 4 days and raising over \$149,192. Highlights included the breathtaking seafood lunch on the Moresby Ranges and the heartfelt grant presentation at the Leaning Tree Community School in Geraldton.



Variety Ball

Some unseasonal February weather saw the Variety Ball make history in 2017 as the first ever Gala Ball held at Perth Arena. The Arena was transformed into an 'enchanted garden' and over 500 guests raised an incredible \$163,089. Our volunteer committee do an incredible job making this one of Perth's top 10 social events of the year!



How you helped

IGA Carols by Candlelight for Variety

For the first time in 72 years, the IGA Carols by Candlelight for Variety was a free event for everyone to enjoy! Over 22,000 people came along and got in the Christmas spirit at Langley Park by singing Carols, watching the fireworks spectacular and helping raise money for Variety WA.



Variety of Chefs

The new Crown Towers Ballroom transformed into Perth's best restaurant in July for the Variety of Chefs Ball. MKR star Colin Fassnidge and a host of WA chefs delighted guests with a 6 course degustation whilst raising much needed funds for the Variety Motor Mouth Program. Thanks to our volunteer chefs and dedicated committee for making this event possible.



Variety Toy Bank

For 23 years, the Variety Toy Bank program has been centred around the collection of new toys which are shared with women's refuges across the state. Each child arriving at a shelter is given a special toy to call their own. Variety WA acknowledges the outstanding contribution of the volunteer committee who put on three fantastic Variety Toy Bank luncheons each year.



Variety of Choice Home Lottery

Now in its third year, tens of thousands of Western Australians bought tickets in the 2017 Variety of Choice Home Lottery. Significant funds were raised through the initiative, all made possible thanks to the continued passion and financial backing of Variety WA Board Member Jay Walter and Plunkett Homes.



How you helped

Variety Goldfields Branch Bonfire and Golf Day

The newly named Geoff Kemp Memorial Golf Day raised over \$60,000 for kids in need and 400 people attended the annual sell out Kalgoorlie Bonfire Night for Variety, handing over a \$10,000 cheque to help empower WA kids.



Variety Mid West Branch Mowtown on Moresby

The Variety Motown on Moresby Dinner was held in August on top of the beautiful Moresby Ranges by Variety WA Mid West Geraldton! Over 200 guests enjoyed a night of culinary delight thanks to Pete Manifs. Over \$72,873 was raised for Variety kids.



Community Fundraising

Western Australians from all walks of life did their bit to raise funds for Variety in 2017... Like 10 year old Charlotte who cut off her hair for Variety's Hair with Heart program, raising \$1,800 in the process, or the Born to Sing Choirs who raised \$3,000 through a Christmas in July concert.



Corporate Partnerships

Every year, Variety receives vital support from generous sponsors and partners, both local and national. From program partners like P&N Bank, to corporate donors including Civmec and Modec, as well as media partners Channel Nine Perth and The Sunday Times / Perth Now – it takes a whole team!



How you helped

Trust & Foundations

Generous donations from Trusts & Foundations allowed Variety to give more WA kids a fair go. A major donation from Newman's Own Foundation saw the expansion of the Variety Motor Mouth Program, while the Stan Perron Charitable Trust supported the Variety Kids Xmas Party and Lotterywest continued its support of both Variety Goanna Park and the Variety Xmas Party.



Workplace Fundraising

There's no better way to build team morale than getting your workplace involved in fundraising for Variety. Office toy drives, morning teas and bake offs are just some of the ways that colleagues joined together to support our cause in 2017.



Volunteers

From toiling away in the remote outback, to answering the phones, wrapping presents, tin shaking and more, hundreds of volunteers give up their time and energy each year to lend a hand for WA kids. Our volunteers tell us they love the personal satisfaction of making a difference – and we're incredibly grateful for their support.



Sponsor Highlight - P&N Bank

For the 2nd year, P&N Bank showcased their community spirit across a number of initiatives, from sponsorship of the Variety Motor Mouth Program, to donating special experiences for Variety families, supporting events such as Variety of Chefs and staff fundraising... proving their motto that together we are greater - the 'power of &'.



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thermomix

K&S FREIGHTERS



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CHARITABLE TRUST

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FOUNDATION

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What's Next

We look ahead to the new year with excitement and anticipation – steadfast in our mission to give a fair go to Western Australian kids who would otherwise miss out.

We will honour our heritage, marking milestones which represent tens of thousands of hours of volunteer effort and millions of dollars raised for WA kids, in the 30th Anniversary Variety Bash and the 10th Anniversary Variety Ball.

And we will celebrate the future, expanding programs like Variety Motor Mouth and Variety Charity Link into exciting new territory and providing even more support for our kids and families.

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



Include Variety in your Will

By including a gift to Variety in your Will, you can make a huge impact to 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 reach 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.

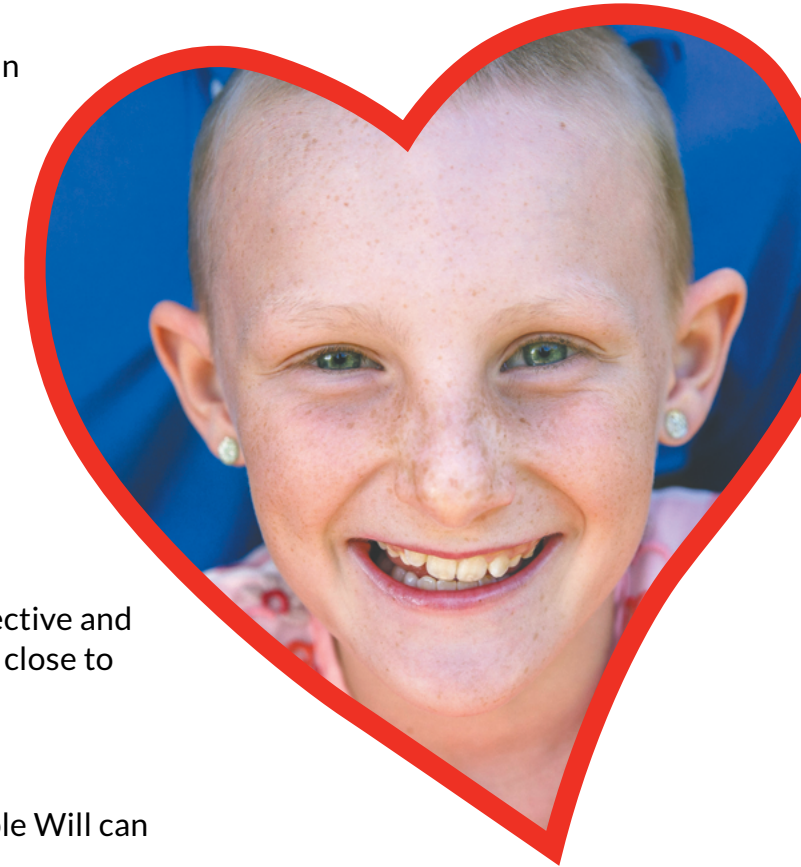
It creates a legacy

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 on (08) 9355 3655.



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Memory from our community

The moment that made you smile this year

"The Variety family day at Skating At Elizabeth Quay for Variety was hands down the best family day out we have had together since Alice was born. Olly the skater deserves a medal, thank you!"



W varietywa.org.au

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the children's charity