

# Annual Report

.....  
2018-19





Very Special Kids welcomes people of all backgrounds and respects that the families we support are different in many ways including country of birth, ethnicity, culture, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, religion and ability.

At Very Special Kids, we acknowledge the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional custodians of the land. We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands across Victoria where our services are located. We also pay our respects to ancestors and Elders, past, present and future.



Very Special Kids is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee, accredited by The Australian Council on Healthcare Standards and is a Child Safe Organisation.



Very Special Kids is proud to display the Registered Charity Tick to highlight our charitable status through The Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commissions' Charity Register.



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This page: Sibling Axel Whitnell plays with his family volunteer Meg

Cover: Rafferty Henry-Waring's brother Marmaduke died in September 2012. Read more about the family on page 14

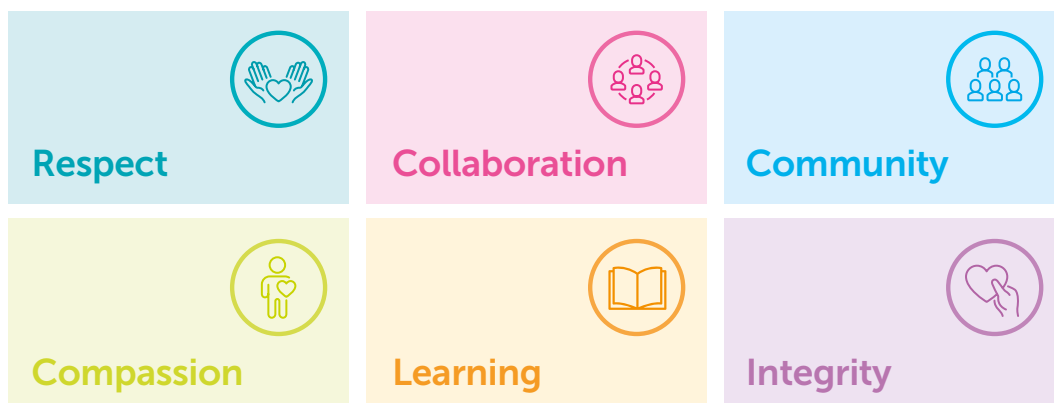


## Our Purpose



Kasper with siblings Owen and Ivy.

## Our Values



# Our Belief

There is *hope* in every life

## Our Vision

Families supporting a child with a life limiting condition find and sustain hope

## Our Mission

Very Special Kids provides holistic care for Victorian families facing the potential death of a child. We provide:

- **Counselling and emotional support for the whole family**
- **Extended and medically supported respite care**
- **End-of-life care and long term bereavement support**

## Goals

## Strategies

### Pursue service excellence

- Build a world class hospice to meet families' needs.
- Enhance accessibility to services.
- Evaluate and improve our model of care.
- Foster collaborative practices with key partners.

### Strengthen financial independence

- Grow and diversify our income streams.
- Implement and achieve our hospice fundraising campaign.
- Ensure responsible financial sustainability.

### Optimise organisational capability

- Infrastructure, systems and processes are fit for purpose now and into the future.
- Ensure our organisational structure supports service delivery.
- Foster an environment that embraces and lives our values.

### Leaders in family-centred paediatric palliative care

- Grow and share our expertise in paediatric palliative care.
- Advocate for better paediatric palliative care across Australia.

## From our leaders

“

*Dedicated to caring for  
our families now, with an  
eye on our future*



**The past year has been a challenging and very successful period for Very Special Kids. Our standards of care and the flexibility we offer families has never been stronger, while we continue to plan for growth and enhanced services.**

### 2018-19 achievements

- Engaged with 111 new families, whilst maintaining support for over 830 families throughout Victoria.
- Successfully achieved reaccreditation against the National Safety Quality Health Services Standards.
- Developed a new Strategic Plan for 2019-22 with four key strategic goals:
  - Pursue service excellence
  - Strengthen financial independence
  - Optimise organisational capability
  - Leaders in family-centred paediatric palliative care
- Through strong fundraising events, community support and responsible expense management, achieved an operating surplus of \$355,143.
- Developed a theory of change model that will influence our services in the future, and provide a stronger narrative to the qualitative impact of our support for families.
- Appointed as the charity partner of the Victorian Racing Club's Melbourne Cup Carnival and it's Pin & Win campaign.

### A new hospice

Evident to Very Special Kids' desire to provide the best support for children and their families, it was announced in March that our hospice would be rebuilt, creating a world class centre for paediatric respite and palliative care.

Very Special Kids, in conjunction with the University of Melbourne, has been working on a hospice upgrade project for a number of years. After researching international best practice, a new hospice has been designed to replace the existing one, which was built in 1996. The \$7.5 million contribution from the Federal Government towards the rebuild has provided a huge boost, significant funds as well as important validation of this project.

While there is still plenty to plan and prepare, including how we will maintain respite support during the rebuild, the project is on track to start late 2020 or early 2021. We would like to acknowledge the tremendous support from the Federal Government, and in particular to Kelly O'Dwyer for her long-time devotion to our cause. As well as the generous ongoing support of the Chain Reaction Challenge Foundation who provided the catalyst funding for this important project in 2017.

## Our Army of Champions

Each year our work is supported by an army of champions. Without our dedicated staff, board of directors, foundation members, over 1,000 volunteers, the Department of Health & Human Services, tens of thousands of individual donors, many wonderful organisations including 7NEWS, 3AW, ALH Group and Commonwealth Bank Australia, along with in-kind assistance from many, we simply would not stretch, reach or function with the same impact. Very Special Kids is about people helping people, and we are unwavering in our belief that we are strong for families because our Army of Champions are strong for us.

## Our hope

When working alongside our families it becomes evident that hope remains a constant during their often long, complicated and emotional journeys. Hope changes when you are confronted with the heartbreaking reality of a child with a life limiting condition, but hope endures. There are many ways one could describe our work in supporting families but fundamentally we want to help each family find and sustain their hope, for their special child and their family unit. Our families continue to inspire our efforts, and they are always our inspiration.

A sincere thank you to everyone who has helped provide much needed services to our families. We couldn't do what we do, without you.

**Peter Polson**, Chairman  
**Michael Wasley**, CEO



## A time to reminisce

**More than 35 years ago, I sat in a very small office in St Kilda wondering how to help families with children who had a life threatening illness.**

A small committee of parents felt there was a great need for support during, and after, this tragic event.

It was a difficult time for people to understand that hospitals couldn't do everything and there was room for others to assist during, and after, the time of their child's illness.

Today Very Special Kids is Victoria-wide with the addition of the first children's hospice in Australia, which opened in 1996.

With amazing support from Government plus a generous community, nothing is impossible.

Many terrible things take place around the world but there are equally as many great people to reach out and help those in need.

Because of the assistance Very Special Kids has had from community, business and Government, we are able to continue to support many families in need at no cost to the family.

**Sister Margaret Noone**, Patron





Who we are here for...



831  
families

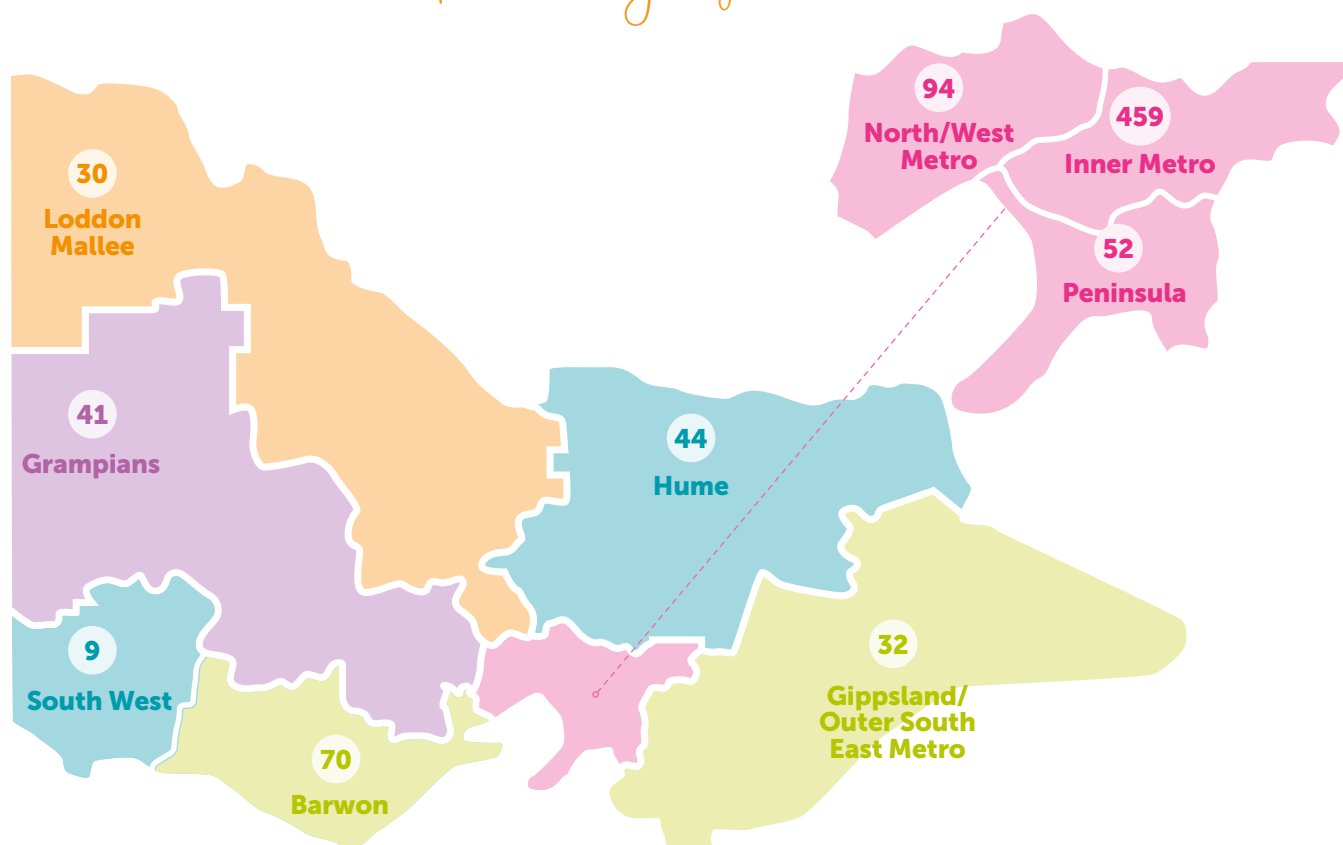
468 non-bereaved families

363 bereaved families

48 have two children with a  
life-threatening condition

596 metropolitan families  
and 235 regional families

Families by region





## ... and how we help

Providing vital respite and end-of-life care  
at Victoria's only children's hospice



**31**

nurses



**22**

Personal Care Workers



**4**

on-call doctors



**471**

hospice admissions

**2,365**

nights of respite  
and specialised care

**39**

Very Special  
children have died

**330**

end of life  
care nights

Providing much needed emotional support and family counselling

**888**

home visits

**8,305**

phone and  
skype sessions

**5,416**

family support  
sessions

**18**

Family Support  
Practitioners across 9 offices

**449** parents  
attended

**69** activities to  
connect with others

**155** siblings  
attended

**6** sibling  
days

Providing an award winning volunteer program

**1,000**

volunteers supported families in their home,  
during hospital stays, at our hospice and with  
fundraising initiatives all across Victoria

**30,553**

volunteer  
hours

**263**

people attended

**13**

volunteer  
information sessions



**9** family volunteer training  
programs were completed

## Our Impact



“

At first I was against it, but then I visited the hospice and I knew this is where she should be, and now we've used it a lot. Breanna loves the environment there, when we walk through the door she is all smiles and can't wait to interact with people. She feels at home, which is very important for us. ”

Nicole – Breanna's mum

**We support families during the toughest and most unforgiving time of their lives. From the point of diagnosis through to adulthood or bereavement, we are with families as long as they need.**

A research project was conducted between March 2018 and June 2019 to measure the impact of our services across end-of-life, respite, family support, bereavement sibling programs and volunteer programs.

Firstly, we developed the Theory of Change framework to serve as the foundation and identify the outcomes to be measured. All families who access our services were invited to respond to a detailed questionnaire about their experiences and opinions. Results demonstrated the unquestionable impact our services have for families during their most difficult times. Special thanks to The Incus Group for their support with this project.

## Our overall impact



**97%**

improved quality of life



**76%**

creation of positive family experiences



**78%**

increased resilience



**77%**

connection to a non-judgemental community



**77%**

increased sense of control



Improved quality of life

**92%**

of children have higher spirits after spending time at the hospice

**100%**

of children who stay at the hospice receive high quality clinical care

“

You see happiness when they're here. It's an escape from the routine at home and gives them a little more autonomy.

”

Hospice carer

**100%**

of children who stay at the hospice are more comfortable overall

**96%**

of parents have peace of mind leaving their child at the hospice

“

We couldn't find anywhere else to get respite. We actually had a child care worker (in another location) say we can't have him here, he's making the others feel sad.

”

Parent





## Positive family experiences

95%

of bereaved families have created lasting memories with their dying child

“

The whole family becomes part of Very Special Kids versus just the child in the hospital. We treat the whole family.”

Hospice staff

90%

of families have been able to spend more quality time together

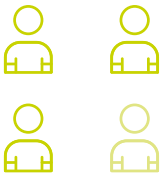
“

Because of where we lived, respite was very difficult to access – it was very hard to find people to care for him. It was pretty fantastic to be able to go off as a couple to have time for ourselves.”

Parent



## Connection to a non-judgemental community



3 in 4

feel connected to an understanding community

“

It makes you feel like you're not alone, you know that there's people out there in equal or worse situations than you.”

Sibling

“

You go somewhere else and you're the family with the kid in the wheelchair. In this group you're the same, you can be there and talk about ordinary stuff and everyone understands the situation.”

Volunteer

90%

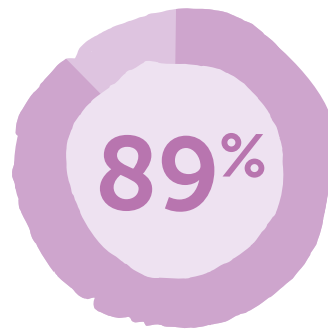
of families feel emotionally well-supported

On average, families feel just as supported by volunteers as their Family Support Practitioner

## Resilience

“They are building memories and connections like a typical family.”  
Hospice staff

“We were blown away to take him there after he had passed away. We have continued with Very Special Kids and found out as time has gone on, it's not just specialised in one area but a broad organisation.”  
Parent



of parents are more accepting of their experiences

8 in 10

families are more resilient

90%

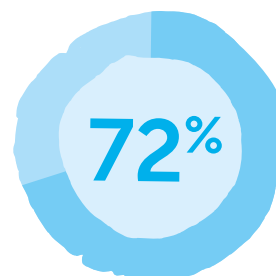
of families feel less isolated because of Very Special Kids

## Sense of control

“I went to a (non-Very Special Kids) psychologist and left there feeling like I had educated her.”  
Parent

80%

of parents feel they are able to cope better



of parents are more confident to take care of themselves and their families



3 in 4

parents said a volunteer helps them manage day-to-day

“It was amazing to have the volunteers to help with siblings. She was there when we needed and became part of the family.”  
Parent

## The Waring family







“

As a family, what we have found invaluable is Very Special Kids' support for bereaved siblings. But it is more than just bereavement support, it is about building confidence and self-esteem.

”

**A cancer journey is one that no family wants to face. Even more difficult when the family loses two family members only a month apart.**

Marmaduke Henry-Waring was 14 months old when he was diagnosed with Neuroblastoma (a solid tumour) and died aged four, only a month after his mum, Millsom, died from breast cancer.

For the Waring family, it was in the aftermath that Very Special Kids had the biggest impact.

Father Simon Waring said their family's first contact with Very Special Kids was when everything was crashing down.

“By that stage my wife was dying and was in hospital and I was bringing the kids in to see her, and Marmaduke was also terminal. I was juggling a nightmare,” he said.

From the first meeting with their family support practitioner, the focus was mostly on how to support the siblings, Felix (now 14), Rafferty (now 9) and Charlotte (now 24).

“We identified quite quickly that a volunteer would be good for one of my boys who was really struggling.”

After Millsom died, Marmaduke had five weeks of palliative care at home before he died in September 2012. At the time, the family had a lot of care and support from a range of organisations but it was after both funerals that the support of Very Special Kids made a real difference.

“When you're coming out of a cancer journey, siblings are often a casualty. Time, focus, resources, everything is naturally focused on the sick child. After the funerals, we came up for air and once

the boys had got a bit of stability back, they were in a position to do more activities,” Simon recalled.

“A volunteer was organised reasonably quickly, and she was great.”

She turned the attention back on Felix and Rafferty to make them feel important.

“It was far more than providing a distraction. To have someone just come around and do what they wanted; play games they wanted to play and take their suggestions has been invaluable. They didn't have to be quiet, or well behaved. It was about engaging them, connecting with them,” Simon said.

In the early stages of grief and in the years since, the family has accessed a range of support including counselling for Simon and Charlotte, attending Lord Somers Camp, staying at Annie's Cottage and regularly attending the Family Christmas Party.

“It has been a bit of a mixed bag really. I have always found Very Special Kids to be non-judgmental, very open, very generous,” he said.

“They have an understanding of the multi-layered impact grief has on the different members of the family.”

The family also still has a family volunteer to connect with Felix and Rafferty.

“The volunteer program has been amazing. That people just turn up and give their time to be supportive and watch the kids grow up is humbling to watch. It is hard to put a value on it.”



## 2018-19 Highlights

Federal Member for Higgins Katie Allen, CEO Michael Wasley, former Federal member of Higgins Kelly O'Dwyer and Patron Sister Margaret Noone.

### Strategic Plan 2019-22

A new strategic plan has been developed to take Very Special Kids through to 2022. The plan has an updated vision and mission, new belief and four high level goals the organisation will work towards over the next three years.

#### Federal Government grant for hospice rebuild

In March, the Federal Government announced a \$7.5 million grant to help rebuild our hospice with state-of-the-art and best practice clinical facilities to better support children of every age, size, cultural background and functional capability.

#### National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards

In December 2018 we were successfully re-accredited against the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards for another three years, confirming that our clinical care is the same standard as hospitals across Australia. Families, health professionals and our community of supporters can be assured that Very Special Kids is delivering the best possible care.

### Impact Measurement Research

A project to measure the impact of Very Special Kids provided some fantastic quantitative and qualitative data. The data demonstrates the value and importance of the services we provide to families during their most difficult times. Special thanks to The Incus Group for their support with the research. We will continue to evaluate and innovate to deliver programs that are effective and efficient.



### Intake and Assessment Coordinator

A newly created Intake and Assessment Coordinator role started in December 2018. This role is vital to increasing hospice efficiency by ensuring all available beds are filled and care is offered to as many children as possible. The role also provides a continuous point of contact for new families from referral through to assessment, providing a greater level of support to families. Laura Moyes is pictured above with Jett.

## Allied Health Team

Very Special Kids has been growing the Allied Health Team in the hospice and we were thrilled to add a Child Life Therapist in 2019. The Allied Health Team now includes art therapy (in partnership with Creative Art Therapy Australia), Music Therapist, Physiotherapist and Child Life Therapist who work collaboratively to provide holistic support to children during their stay in the hospice.

## New care management system

An exciting project to implement a new electronic care management system is underway. The system will deliver efficiencies in medical record keeping and reporting, better support the delivery of high quality care, as well as make referral, admission and other information sharing processes for families faster and easier.

## Closed Bereaved Sibling Group

A new initiative providing a therapy group for bereaved siblings started in May 2019. Siblings aged between 8-12 years attended four sessions with a facilitated parent group running concurrently. Feedback from both of the groups was outstanding.

## Most Outstanding Achievement by a Young Volunteer

In May 2019 a Very Special Kids volunteer Jamilla McCoy, won a Victorian Health Minister Award for The Most Outstanding Achievement by a Young Volunteer. Once again a recognition of the positive volunteer culture that is fostered at Very Special Kids.

Jamilla McCoy accepts the award from Victorian Minister for Health Jenny Mikakos

## Keeping Strong Program

Thanks to funding from the Geelong Community Foundation, parents in the Barwon region participated in a series of workshops exploring different stress management techniques. Feedback from parents was overwhelmingly positive.

## 75% self-funded

Very Special Kids has continued to grow its revenue streams and in 2018-19, 75% of funding was raised through successful events, major gifts, grants and other fundraising activities. The remaining 25% was income from the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services and investment income.

## Meeting regional challenges

The Road to Respite program is continuing to provide transport for regional families who find it challenging to access respite due to their location. In partnership with Royal Flying Doctor Service, we have completed 73 transfers transporting children between their family homes and the hospice, totalling over 450 hours on the road. This program has been made possible thanks to funding from William Buckland Foundation.







## Spotlight on...

### Glen Osmond Farm

Over 15 years ago Janet and Bernie Hawkins approached Very Special Kids with an incredible offer. The generous couple donated 26 hectares of their family property in Woodend to Very Special Kids to offer the families and children we support a place to stay, free of charge, for peace, serenity and a much needed break.

The working farm, named Glen Osmond Farm, opened in 2013 and has two purpose-built holiday cottages that sleep up to eight people in three bedrooms. There is also a big barn on the property for entertainment. The facilities are fully accessible to cater for the unique needs of our families.

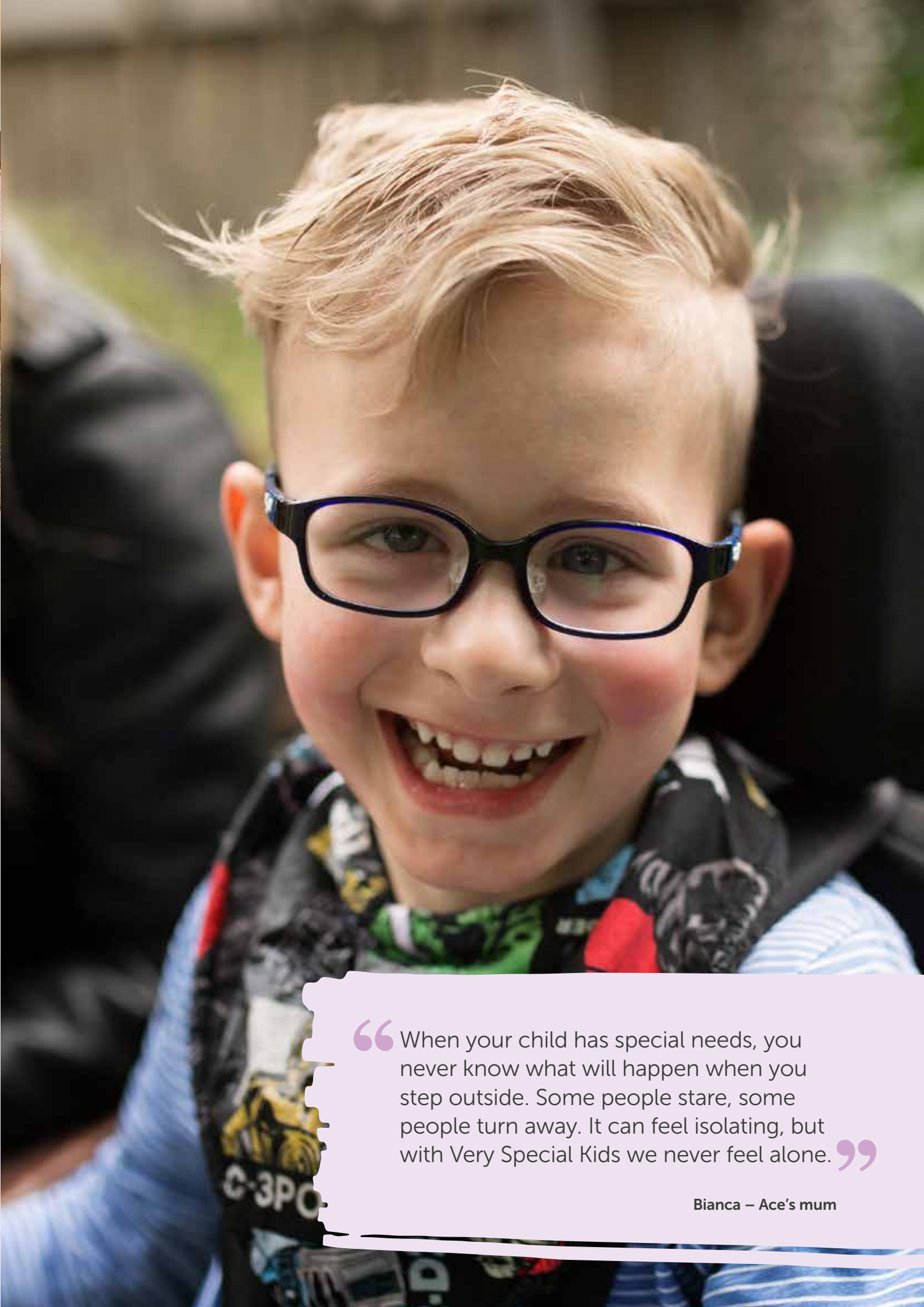
Glen Osmond Farm inspires calmness, with its beautiful wide open rural surroundings, rescued sheep from Edgars Mission and breathtaking views of Mount Macedon.



“For us, it feels just perfect. The peace and the quietness, the great set up, the enjoyable area, the nature, we feel very comfortable in the beautiful cottage. It feels for us a little piece of paradise. Thank you.”

Demuynck family

The Mullan family enjoy the outdoors at Glen Osmond Farm

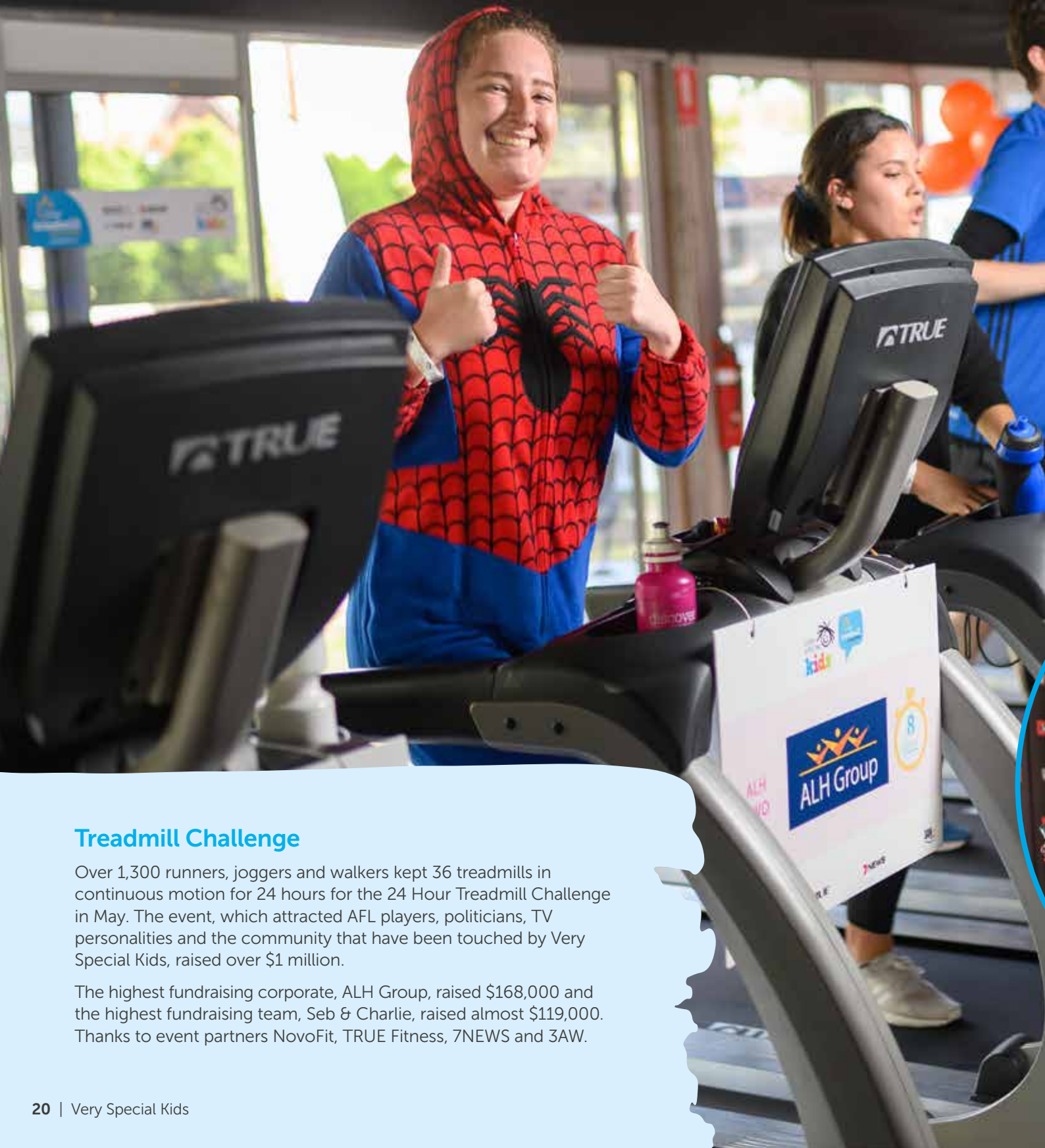


“ When your child has special needs, you never know what will happen when you step outside. Some people stare, some people turn away. It can feel isolating, but with Very Special Kids we never feel alone. ”

Bianca – Ace's mum



## Our Events



### Treadmill Challenge

Over 1,300 runners, joggers and walkers kept 36 treadmills in continuous motion for 24 hours for the 24 Hour Treadmill Challenge in May. The event, which attracted AFL players, politicians, TV personalities and the community that have been touched by Very Special Kids, raised over \$1 million.

The highest fundraising corporate, ALH Group, raised \$168,000 and the highest fundraising team, Seb & Charlie, raised almost \$119,000. Thanks to event partners NovoFit, TRUE Fitness, 7NEWS and 3AW.





## Piggy Bank Appeal

Each year, the Piggy Bank Appeal aims to build awareness for Very Special Kids, and raise \$1 million. Five giant pink piggy banks, each three metres in height and weighing 700 kilograms, travel around Victoria on a mission to raise vital funds. Businesses, community groups and volunteers band together to support the appeal through public events and fundraising opportunities in Melbourne and regional Victoria. ALH Group venues, Commonwealth Bank branches, and other supporting businesses create an extensive network across Victoria to hold fundraising events, sell merchandise and collect community donations.

## Footy Fever Debate

In August 2018, a contingent of high-profile football personalities engaged in a humorous debate which raised more than \$131,588. Hosted by 7NEWS' Emily Angwin at the MCG, the Very Special Kids Footy Fever Debate tackled the topic 'footballers are funnier than comedians'. Panellists were premiership captains Cameron Ling and Wayne Carey, musician Greg Champion and comedian Dave O'Neil.

Very Special Kids recently held the 2019 event at a new venue, Atlantic Group Docklands, and refreshed the format to raise over \$200,000.



## Autumn Classic

The 3rd annual Autumn Classic where teams competed in a virtual cycling race, raised \$132,302. Lowe Finance took home the trophy, and second and third place went to Trivelo and Spiders. Each team went their hardest and it was amazing to see everyone put in the effort. Thanks to event partners The Cycling Fix and Bridged Group.



## Other events

Our Annual Fair is held in November on the grounds of Very Special Kids in Malvern. Once again it provided an opportunity to put on a special day to bring the community together.

We also ran two Ladies' Lunches - one in March and one on Oaks Day which collectively raised over \$100,000. Guests were entertained by Matt Tilley and Jules Lund. Thanks to Royal South Yarra Lawn Tennis Club, Liberty Belle Skin Centre and Flowers Vasette.

Other events included the Very Special Kids Golf Day and Fashion Sale.

# Our Partners and Supporters

## Fundraisers

In its inaugural year, the **Daimler Schools Treadmill Challenge** raised almost \$25,000, with the enthusiastic support of Daimler, NovoFit, Kew High School, St Catherine's School and Loreto Mandeville Hall (below).



**Walk for Phil**, held on Saturday 27 April, raised \$19,938 for Very Special Kids. Participants (below) walked 24km between Melbourne's racecourses (Moonee Valley, Flemington, and Caulfield), or a shorter 8km course from St Kilda.



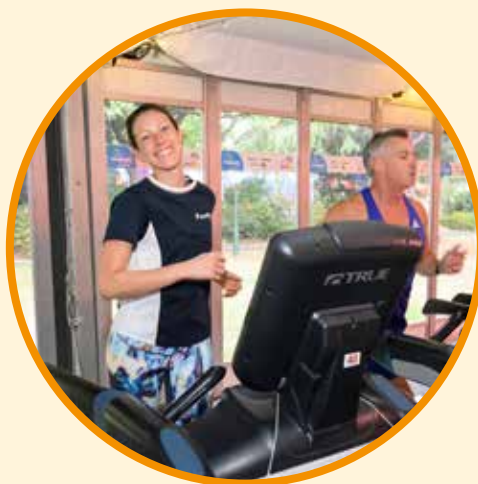
**Pamela Yardney**, as part of her 70th birthday celebrations, organised the Metropole Ball. Through her family, friends and colleagues she raised nearly \$50,000.

## Corporate

**Simply Energy** (below) selected Very Special Kids as the charity partner for their golf day in 2018 and raised a total of \$58,000. Very Special Kids was honoured to be reselected as the charity partner for the 2019 event.



**IOOF** provided a \$60,000 grant to fund Very Special Kids' regional family support. Subsidiary, Shadforth Financial Group (below) extended their support, participating in the 24 Hour Treadmill Challenge and raising an additional \$81,356.



**Luke Watson Design and Assembly** pledged to donate 10% of the company's income to Very Special Kids for the month of August. Through the support of clients, the company raised \$5,000.



# Volunteers

We are lucky to have seven **volunteer gardeners** including Ed Kidd (left), who help maintain the beautiful gardens at our Malvern property each week.



**Marian and Vic Jackson** have been Friends Volunteers since 2015. Vic is a 'qualified' piggy trailer driver and Marian is his trusty navigator when they hit the road for the Piggy Bank Appeal. They have also introduced Very Special Kids to the other residents in their retirement village on the Peninsula where Vic runs a weekly happy hour with raffle money donated to Very Special Kids.



Friends Volunteers **Julie and Peter De Vercelli** have been volunteering in different roles for four years. Julie is a welcoming, smiling face as part of our volunteer reception team and Peter helps out weekly around the property as one of our volunteer gardeners.



**Therapy dog Olive** visits the hospice each week with her owner Kirsty Powers, a hospice volunteer. She is a trained and certified therapy dog and participates fully in the hospice by working with children, being part of the art therapy and school holiday programs.



**Holly Alexander** finished the volunteer training program in September 2018 and has already made an impression with number of interactive art pieces for the hospice, Family Christmas Party and the sibling days.



**Jemma Munoz-Richards** is one of our volunteers supporting families who find themselves at Royal Children's Hospital and for nearly five years has been a regular volunteer at our sibling days. She always goes above and beyond when getting involved.



# Our Partners and Supporters

## Philanthropy

**The Barr Family Foundation** has funded the role of our hospice-based physiotherapist, Belinda Luther (below), for 20 hours a week since 2017. In 2018 they increased their financial support to allow our physiotherapist to provide an additional 10 hours per week as needed and purchase specialised equipment to use during physiotherapy sessions.



**The Lily Calvert Memorial Fund** (below) made a big-hearted \$10,000 donation to support our Very Special Kids Hospice family accommodation. Lily and her parents were first supported by Very Special Kids in 2017.



**The Rado Family Foundation** is generously providing three years of funding for the Intake and Assessment Coordinator. This role provides a continuous point of contact for new and current families from referral through to assessment and hospice bookings. The position also plays a pivotal role in information flow between the hospice and the Family Support Team.

**Ian and Kristeen Urquhart** are currently funding the role of the Child Life Therapist in the hospice. Our Child Life Therapist, Shari Manley (below) started in the role in January 2019 and works to ensure children's voices are heard and their needs are met within the healthcare environment.



**Jenny and John Fast** have been supporters of Very Special Kids for almost 20 years. Jenny (below) has been a Family Support Volunteer since 1995, caring for families during their stay in hospital, and providing assistance at many events. The couple also generously support our work with an annual gift.





## Ambassadors

### Jimmy Rees (aka Jimmy Giggle)

We were honoured to welcome TV personality Jimmy Rees as Very Special Kids Ambassador. Jimmy has helped raise funds and the profile of Very Special Kids by naming us his charity for the Moomba Festival Birdman Rally after being crowned Moomba King. He also danced his way into our lounge rooms appearing on Network Ten's Dancing With The Stars, although he had to withdraw after one of his children became ill. Jimmy learnt about our services when his nephew, Rye, was diagnosed with cerebral palsy and other health issues and the family turned to Very Special Kids for support.

## Friends

**Emily Angwin** Footy Fever Debate  
**Wayne Carey** Footy Fever Debate  
**Phil Ceberano** Footy Fever Debate  
**Greg Champion** Footy Fever Debate  
**Baden Cooke** Autumn Classic  
**Tegan Cunningham** Treadmill Challenge  
**Nick Dal Santo** Fair  
**John Deeks** Golf Day  
**Jess Dempsey** Fashion Sale  
**Sandor Earl** Treadmill Challenge  
**Dyson Heppell** Treadmill Challenge  
**Jayden Hunt** Treadmill Challenge  
**Ainslie Kemp** Treadmill Challenge

**Sarah Lampard** Treadmill Challenge  
**Cameron Ling** Footy Fever Debate  
**Jules Lund** Ladies Lunch  
**David McKenzie** Autumn Classic  
**Hamish McLachlan** Treadmill Challenge and Footy Fever Debate  
**Lily Mithen** Treadmill Challenge  
**Leigh Montagna** Treadmill Challenge  
**Dave O'Neil** Footy Fever Debate  
**Russell Robertson** Footy Fever Debate  
**Matt Tilley** Ladies Lunch  
**Sam Weideman** Treadmill Challenge  
**Subzero** (1992 Melbourne Cup winner)

**Danny Frawley** was a special friend who supported the work of Very Special Kids for many years. We were saddened to hear of his death in September 2019.

# Our Partners and Supporters

## Partners



Ducas Paul Foundation



Rado Family Foundation



The Miller Foundation



## Supporters and event partners



Campbell Foundation

Norman, Mavis & Graeme Waters Perpetual Charitable Trust

Brian M Davis Charitable Foundation

Estate Late Paul Edward Dehnert

## Media partners



## Program partners



## Corporate supporters

Advent Partners  
ALH Group  
AMP Foundation  
ARA Property Services Pty Ltd  
Atlantic Group  
Ausnet Services  
BSH Home Appliances  
Cabrini Health  
Carroll-Marsh Investments Pty Ltd  
Chain Reaction Challenge Foundation  
CMV Foundation  
Coca Cola Amatil  
Coles Services  
Coles Supermarkets  
Commonwealth Bank - Malvern  
Commonwealth Bank - Staff Social & Charity Club (Vic) Inc  
Commonwealth Bank of Australia  
Cummins  
Daimler Truck & Bus  
Decjuba  
Delaforde Pty Ltd  
DFP Recruitment Services  
Ernst & Young  
Frankston RSL  
Guild Group  
Honda Foundation  
Icon Group  
IOOF Foundation  
JBWere  
Jellis Craig Foundation  
Jemena  
Keilor East RSL  
Korn Ferry  
Link Financial Services  
Linx Cargo Care Group  
Luke Watson Design & Assembly  
M C Herd Pty Ltd  
Mercedes-Benz Toorak  
MRC Foundation  
National Australia Bank  
Navy Health  
Nib Foundation  
OHM Australia Chartered Accountants  
Old England Hotel  
Penfold Motors Burwood  
Powercor Finance Team  
Protiviti  
QBE Foundation  
Seacret Spa  
Seda  
Shadforth Financial Group  
Simply Energy  
SureCare Safety Rails Australia  
Swisse Wellness  
Telstra  
The Ascott Limited  
Thomas Duryea Logicalis

Toyota - SRO  
Toyota Financial Services  
Turi Foods  
Video My Job  
Viva Energy Australia  
WE-EF  
West Waters Hotel  
Westend Market Hotel

## Individual supporters

Rita Andre  
Clive & Jenny Batrouney  
Jason Be  
Norma Beaconsfield  
Margaret Brown  
Richard & Danielle Burnet  
Glenn Carmody  
Leigh Chivers  
Amanda Da Gama Pinto  
Simon Daish  
Davidson D'lan  
Doug Evans  
Cameron Falloon  
Angela Found  
Anton & Jenny Gaudry  
David Gillard  
Paul Hallam  
Andrew Hayne  
Dr Daryl & Lisa Holmes  
Matt Honey  
Peter & Tomoko Hour  
David Jones  
Peter Kempen  
Steve Kloss  
David Liddle  
David Lyall  
Bruce Mathieson Jnr  
Ian Mcleod  
Narayan Sreenivasan  
Neroli Padfield  
Nick Panagrotopoulos  
Jan Pannam  
Barry Peake  
Ann Petrides  
Matthew Porter  
John Rombotis  
Richard Rose  
Hamish Rotstein  
Grace Scoleri  
Trevor Smith  
Carl Snowsill  
Lynette Swan  
Jules Tai  
Ian & Kristeen Urquhart  
Robert Van Stokrom & Leonie Hill  
Gaynor Von Bertouch  
Andrew Wallace-Barnett  
John Wheeler & Sue Hadden  
Kim Wilson  
Susie Wilson  
Pamela Yardney

## Government

Bayside City Council  
City of Melbourne  
Commonwealth Government of Australia  
Department of Infrastructure  
Department of Social Services  
Department of Health & Human Services

## Trusts and Foundations

Australian Communities Foundation  
Barr Family Foundation  
Borrodeell Bequest  
Brian M Davis Charitable Foundation  
Campbell Foundation  
Crown Resorts Foundation PAF  
Dorman Family Foundation  
Ducas Paul Foundation  
Estate Late Paul Edward Dehnert  
Estate of Mary Dupont Nolan  
Estate of Natalie Mary O'Sullivan  
Ethel Herman Charitable Trust re Children's Charities  
Freemasons Foundation Victoria  
Goldie Nominees Pty Ltd  
Ian Dodd Trust Re Discretionary Charities  
Lily Calvert Memorial Fund  
MacKenzie Family Foundation  
Men of Malvern  
Norman, Mavis & Graeme Waters Perpetual Charitable Trust  
Packer Family Foundation PAF  
Pethard Tarax Charitable Trust  
Perpetual Foundation  
Rado Family Foundation  
Sunraysia Foundation  
The Hazel Peat Perpetual Charitable Trust  
The Johnstone Family Foundation  
The Marian & E H Flack Trust  
The Miller Foundation  
The William Angliss (Victoria) Charitable Fund

## Community supporters

Freemasons Monash Lodge  
Helping Hand Group  
Lions Club of Ashwood - Mount Waverley  
Melbourne Children's Campus Research Students Association  
Metropole Property Group  
Rio's Legacy  
Rotary Club of Altona City  
The Flinders Challenge  
Upstream Foundation  
Walk for Phil

## ALH Group venues

Balaclava Hotel  
Berwick Inn Hotel  
Blackburn Hotel  
Bundoora Hotel  
Burvale Hotel  
Commercial Hotel - Werribee  
Doncaster Hotel  
Excelsior Hotel Motel  
First And Last Hotel  
Glengala Hotel  
Hallam Hotel  
Keysborough Hotel  
Mac's Hotel  
Manningham Hotel  
Matthew Flinders Hotel  
Meadow Inn Hotel-Motel  
Millers Inn

## Gift in Kind supporters

3AW Radio  
Advent Print Media  
Ambra Corporation Ltd  
Benestar  
Bridged Group Pty Ltd  
Buller Wines  
Cake Angels  
Corrs Chambers Westgarth  
Daimler Truck & Bus  
ELMO Software Ltd  
IKEA  
Indulgence Medi Spa  
KPMG  
Liberty Belle Skin Centre  
Lifestyle Rewards  
Linfox Logistics  
NAB Global Occupier Services  
NovoFit  
QANTAS  
Rapid Relief Team  
Royal South Yarra Lawn Tennis Club  
Sealife Melbourne Aquarium  
Seven Network (Operations) Limited  
Springfree Trampolines  
Sussan Group  
The Ascott Limited  
The Just Group  
Toyota - SRO  
WTFN Entertainment



## Financial snapshot

“

The Very Special Kids sibling days are great, all the kids are in the same boat as me. It's just so comforting to know that you are not alone. It really helps with that. ”

Jarrold – Emma's older brother

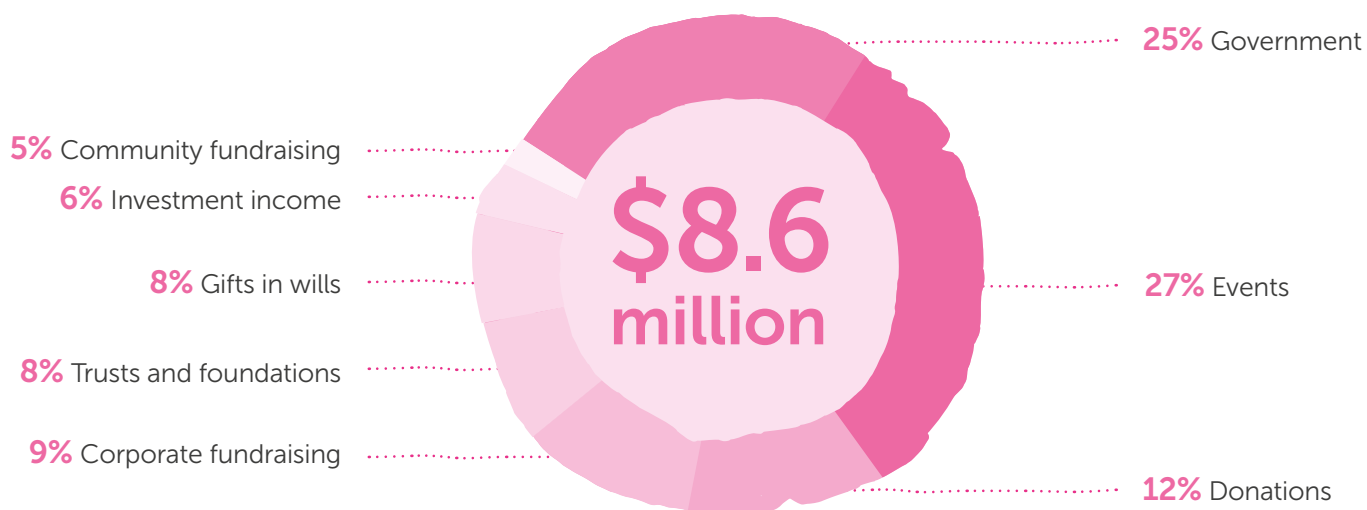
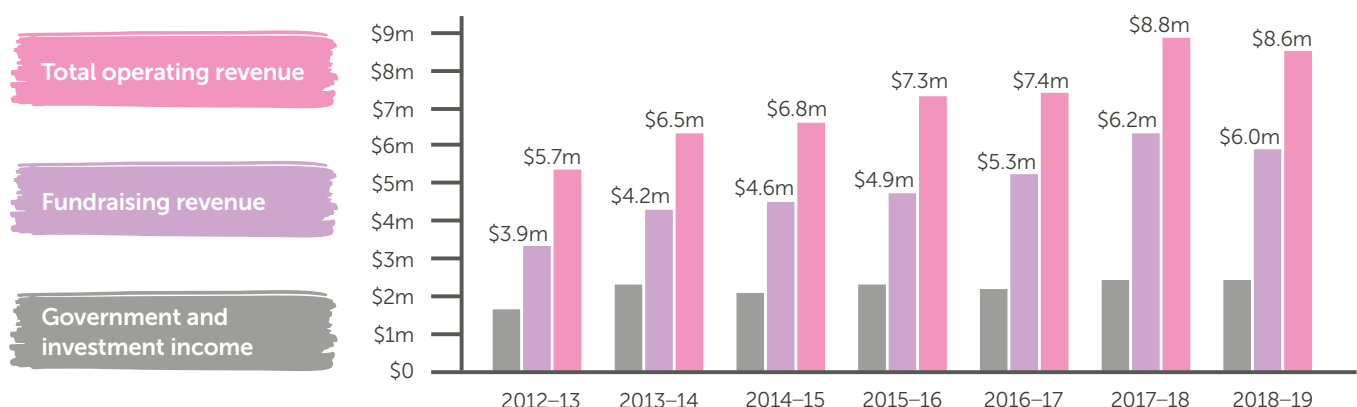
As we continue to strengthen our financial position through diversification of income streams, we also focus on how we can continue to operate and deliver our services effectively and efficiently to support more families across Victoria.

In 2018-19, it cost \$8.2 million to deliver our services and we achieved an operating

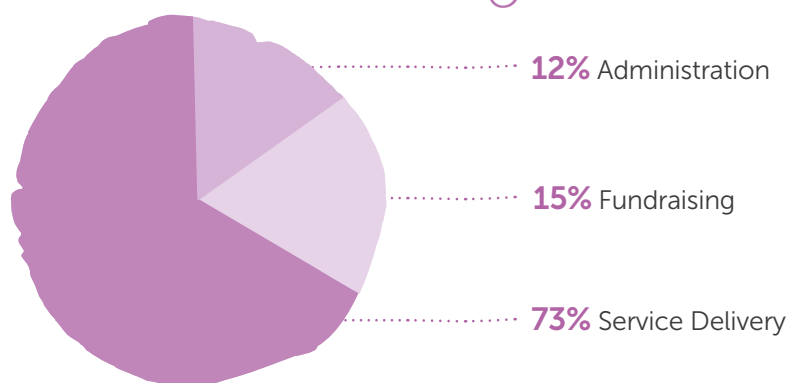
surplus of \$355,143. This was due to the success of events, fundraising, corporate support and some generous gifts from long standing supporters.

As an organisation that is 75% self funded, we are so grateful to the generosity of all supporters. You make an impact and difference to the families that need it most.

## Where our income comes from



## Where the money goes







Damien Whitnell with son Jett

## Our People

### Board

Peter Polson (Chair)  
 Dr Susie Gibb  
 Rhys Jewell  
 Heidi Roberts  
 Therese Robinson  
 Dr Adam Scheinberg  
 Wendy Thorpe  
 Joanna Birdseye  
 (retired December 2018)  
 Hisham El-Ansary  
 (retired February 2019)

### Patron

Sr Margaret Noone,  
 AM IBVM

### Chief Executive Officer

Michael Wasley,  
 BSc PGDipRehab  
 MBA GAICD

### Executive Management Committee

Kara Briggs General Manager – Planning & Improvement  
 Rebecca Cowan General Manager – Fundraising & Communications  
 Rachel Ficus Family Support Team Manager  
 Sue Kearney Hospice Manager  
 Jane Baker Administration & Systems Manager  
 Katrina Hall Human Resources Manager  
 Richard Hanson Business Manager  
 Sharon Stynes Fundraising & Events Manager

### Life Governors

Mr Rod Bennett  
 Prof. Glenn Bowes  
 Ms Jane Fenton AM  
 Mrs Paula Fox AO  
 Mr David Jones AO, OBE, KSJ  
 Ms Connie Kimberley  
 Mr Roger Nicholson (dec) OAM  
 Sr. Margaret Noone AM IBVM  
 Mr Andrew Penn

### Life Members

David Agnew  
 Gary Anderson  
 Dr Elizabeth Carew-Reid OAM  
 The Hon Peter Costello AC  
 Robert Davey  
 Chris Gillman  
 Janet Hawkins OAM  
 John Hope  
 David King  
 Professor Sharon Goldfield  
 Dr Doug Bryan  
 Bill Le Lievre (dec)  
 Keera Le Lievre (dec)  
 Dr Annie Moulden OAM  
 John Nairn  
 Maureen O'Keefe-Anders  
 Dr John Rogers AM  
 Wendy Swift  
 Jim Wilson

### Foundation

Glenn Carmody (Chair)  
 Michael Wasley  
 Neville Azzopardi  
 Phil Endersbee  
 David Gibbs  
 Claudia Haeger  
 Matthew Koce  
 Andrew Macmillan  
 Suzie McNerney  
 Andrew Perry  
 Hamish Rotstein  
 David Szeleczky  
 John-Paul Whitbread  
 Justin Whitford

# How to support

There are many other ways that you can support Very Special Kids so we can continue to provide our invaluable services to families free-of-charge.



## Make a regular tax deductible gift

Monthly, quarterly or yearly



## Collect donations in a piggy bank

Work, school or home



## Leave a gift in your will

Ensure your legacy lives on



## Ask for donations in lieu of gifts

Birthday, wedding, bar/bat mitzvah or any other celebration



## Volunteer

In the hospice, hospitals, with families or help with fundraising and administration as a Friends Volunteer



## Develop a corporate partnership

Sponsorship, cause-related marketing, workplace giving, volunteering or in-kind support



## Organise your own fundraising event

A fun run, trivia night, food and wine function, movie night, concert or fashion show



## Attend or support one of our fundraising events

Piggy Bank Appeal, 24 Hour Treadmill Challenge, Footy Fever Debate, Golf Day, Ladies Lunch, Annual Fair and Fashion Sale



# Make a donation

@ [www.vsk.org.au](http://www.vsk.org.au)

✉ Mail a cheque or money order payable to **Very Special Kids**, 321 Glenferrie Road, Malvern, Victoria, 3144.

☎ Call 03 9804 6222



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**FREECALL 1800 888 875 | WEBSITE AND ONLINE DONATIONS [VSK.ORG.AU](http://VSK.ORG.AU)**

**Head Office  
and Hospice**

321 Glenferrie Road  
Malvern  
03 9804 6222  
[mail@vsk.org.au](mailto:mail@vsk.org.au)

**Brunswick**

Level 1/233 Sydney Road  
Brunswick  
0408 910 878  
0428 989 122

**Peninsula**

1973 Frankston-Flinders  
Road, Hastings  
0417 151 096

**Barwon**

Kurrambee Myaring  
Community Centre  
12 Merrijig Drive  
Torquay  
0400 007 693

**South West**

Port Fairy Community  
House, Railway Place  
Port Fairy  
0428 393 162

**Gippsland /  
Outer South East**

2 Olympic Way  
Pakenham  
0417 543 514

**Grampians**

25-39 Barkly Street  
Ballarat  
0457 727 505

**Hume**

23 Alexandra Street  
Mooroopna  
0408 583 378

**Loddon Mallee**

52-54 Derwent Drive  
Long Gully  
0428 240 031

**ABN 86 109 832 091**