

# Care FOR Kids

*your  
impact*



AUTUMN 2021

You're working wonders for kids like Charlie



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## New found hope in a new year

A new year brings new beginnings, after a particularly difficult year for many families around Queensland and Australia. Thank you for supporting sick kids during these tough times, whether through donating funds, volunteering, or telling others about the work we are fortunate to be doing.

Thank you so much for allowing us to work wonders for sick kids through your selflessness. I hope the stories in this newsletter show what you're achieving through your generosity every single day.

You might have heard Rein's story before – a young girl from Emerald who started her journey with cancer at just one-year-old. We are so pleased that Rein is doing well despite her rocky start to life.

Your generosity has helped us to invest in life changing equipment and ground-breaking research which is helping researchers to improve rehabilitation strategies for children who have suffered



a stroke, and laser technology which aims to improve outcomes for burns patients.

We are looking forward to 2021 with hope and that hope is made possible by you. It's a hope for a better year and a better future for sick kids and their families.

As you read this report, I hope it inspires you to see how much we can achieve together for sick and injured kids.

Rosie Simpson  
Chief Executive Officer  
Children's Hospital Foundation



## Superstar Rein shines through!

“Rein was only 20 months old the day she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer, and I struggled to understand how something like this could happen to someone so young and so innocent.”

When little Rein stopped running, playing and had no energy, her mum Macie knew something was wrong. Rein would scream in pain when her parents tried to pick her up or move her.

“When we first got the diagnosis, we prepared for the worst and expected all the awful things you associate with someone having cancer and going through treatment,” says Macie.

Once admitted to Queensland Children’s Hospital Rein had ultrasounds and a CT scan, followed by surgery. Following her ovarian cancer diagnosis, she started chemotherapy, which was tough on the family, but thankfully her treatment went well with only a couple of minor setbacks.




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**“The Foundation offered great support services. Rein loved all the volunteers that came into the room to read and play with her. It made a real difference to have these services as a distraction.”**

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Despite everything going on, brave little Rein took all her treatment in her stride. The family spent more than four months in Brisbane away from home, but with a strong support network and the help of the support services available, they got through it.

The day before her second birthday, the family were given the amazing news that Rein was in remission. And today, nearly a year on she is still going strong and has check-ups every three months.

Rein and her family are enjoying being back at home together. Rein is a great little mover and loves to dance, sing and play the keyboard. We think her talents coupled with the determination she has shown to get through her treatment, means she is definitely a star in the making!

### Photos

Above Rein with her mum, Macie.

Left Rein during her hospital stay.

## Supporting vital research into paediatric stroke

Strokes do not just affect adults; three children are diagnosed with a stroke every month in Queensland. In an Australian first, children affected by stroke will benefit from better long-term health care plans and a reduced need for future treatments thanks to research taking place at the Queensland Children's Hospital.

With your support, we were proud to fund the high density (HD) electroencephalography (EEG) machine that is central to a research study which is monitoring brain waves in children affected by stroke. The machine will help determine the best rehabilitation and management strategies for their long-term recovery. The HD EEG machine provides researchers with detailed information about the progress of a patient's recovery following stroke.

This will allow clinicians at the Queensland Children's Hospital to develop personalised rehabilitation plans that aim to minimise the life-long impairments associated with stroke and prevent the recurrence of future strokes.

### **Photo**

*Ollie in Kidzone, which is funded by supporters like you. Kidzone gives kids the opportunity to get out of their rooms and gives siblings a place to play and have fun while their brother or sister receives treatment or attends an appointment.*



### Ollie's story

The HD EEG machine will help sick kids like Oliver (Ollie), who recently returned home to Northern NSW almost three months after surviving a traumatic motorbike accident.

Ollie had just celebrated his eighth birthday when he was injured riding his bike around his family farm. The family were immediately flown to Queensland Children's Hospital for his evaluation and treatment, and following a brain scan and an MRI, doctors admitted him to the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) to monitor a brain bleed. He was put into an induced coma for four days.

The next three months were a long journey of recovery, with the smallest achievements representing enormous milestones in the eyes of Ollie's family. He was paralysed down his right side, with no movement at all, and doctors were not sure if he would ever walk or talk again.

But Ollie is a wonder and he is now doing amazingly well back on the family farm, having just started Grade 3. He's walking again, attending occupational therapy, speech therapy and physiotherapy weekly. He even started surfing again over the Christmas holidays.



## New laser technology helping children with burn injuries

Because of your incredible support, the Children's Hospital Foundation funded the Lumenis Ultra Pulse Laser at the Queensland Children's Hospital.

The laser transforms light into heat that can effectively 'melt away' old scar tissue and allow new skin to grow in its place. This treatment has the potential to reduce the appearance of burns scars and improve function in the affected areas.

Six-year-old Charlie is one of the hundreds of children treated for burns at the Queensland Children's Hospital each year.



He sustained primarily full thickness burns to 38 per cent of his body after he accidentally pulled a deep fryer off the kitchen bench in 2015. Charlie spent a total of 39 days at the Queensland Children's Hospital and underwent 11 operations for skin grafting and dressing changes and will need ongoing treatments for many years to come to manage his scarring as he grows.

It's hoped the introduction of this treatment will reduce the appearance of burns scars and improve function in the affected areas for kids like Charlie.

Find out more about Lumenis Ultra Pulse Laser here



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**Thank you for working wonders for sick kids like Charlie.**

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### Photos

*Above* Charlie with mum, Samantha, and dad, Stephen.

*Left* Charlie during his hospital stay.



## Phones abuzz for Telethon 2020!

Generous supporters have risen to the occasion once again for our seventh annual Nine Telethon.

The Foundation is overwhelmed by the support shown for this special cause each year. The sick kids and their families are so heartened to know that you and the community are right there behind them, cheering them on.

Telethon looked a little different in 2020, as did many events, with a COVID-friendly format. On Saturday 16 November, Nine interrupted regular programming throughout the day to feature donation announcements and cheque handovers from partners and fundraisers right across the state. Many patients also sent messages of thanks to our corporate partners.

The live broadcast kicked off at 3pm, featuring amazing at-home performances from Jimmy Barnes and Dami Im. Of course, the real stars of the show were the kids and families and their inspiring stories.

Various cheque handovers and live interviews were also captured throughout the afternoon from the Sunsuper Contact

Centre, the inaugural Kids Ball and South Bank Piazza, where 42k Step It Your Way was in full swing. Given visitor restrictions at Queensland Children's Hospital, live Skype interviews were conducted with brave young patients at the hospital to talk about the magic of Telethon.

Donations from the event support sick kids and their families by funding patient and family support programs, life-changing medical research and cutting-edge medical equipment. You help to provide the very best of care for sick kids like 2020 Telethon ambassador, Isaac – a four-year-old brain cancer warrior who is living with a stable brain tumour, which has left him with an acquired brain injury.

Everyone across Queensland rallied together in support of these incredible kids. A special thanks to our generous partners, including Channel Nine, Woolworths, Golden Casket, Queensland Government, Australian Government, The University of Queensland, Hyundai, Sunsuper, The Coffee Club, Nova 106.9, Goa, Queensland Cricketer's Club and Queensland Ballet. Thank you for working wonders for sick and injured kids.





## Award-winning researcher changing lives for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children



You're helping to fund urgently needed research to improve the quality of life for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children with bronchiectasis.

Bronchiectasis is a commonly seen lung condition in Australia and is much more common in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. Support and management for children with the condition is an area of need and the Children's Hospital Foundation have invested almost \$300,000 in research by Professor Anne Chang at the Queensland Children's Hospital.

This research will help support children with bronchiectasis and their parents so they are equipped to understand how best to treat the condition, decrease flare-ups, overall leading to a better quality of life for these children.

Early funding from Children's Hospital Foundation led Professor Chang and her team to secure a \$2.5 million grant from the National Health and Medical Research Council to set up a Centre of Research Excellence.

This vital research will help so many families and your donations are helping to fund it. You truly are working wonders for sick Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island children and their families.

## Bruce knows the difference YOU make to sick kids



Bruce Cowley has been Chair of the Board at the Children's Hospital Foundation since 2012. After nearly nine years in the role, he made the difficult decision to step down in September 2020.

Having seen first hand the important and essential work of the team, Bruce and his wife Helen, have committed to working wonders for sick kids long into the future by leaving a gift to the Foundation in their Will.

"The Children's Hospital Foundation is now about four times the size it was when I began, and that has resulted from the extraordinary commitment of the team. It is important to remember though that the Foundation is really just a conduit which connects our generous donors with the amazing clinical staff at Queensland Children's Hospital and the paediatric researchers who do such important work." says Bruce.

During the last nine years, Bruce feels privileged to have been involved in some major achievements for the Foundation. The list is long, but his highlights include the establishment of a rigorous grants process, the Channel Nine Telethon, forming major corporate partnerships, research collaborations and the Mary McConnel grants program for female researchers. He has also seen our committed volunteers provide support to children and their families as they encounter, what can be, very stressful times in hospital.

"We have decided to leave a gift in our wills to provide certainty of funding to help sick kids long into the future. Over my years as Board Chair, I have spent many hours with the parents of children whose lives have been profoundly affected by a serious accident or the sudden onset of a life-threatening disease. Some of those children's lives have been saved by equipment purchased, or research funded, by generous supporters like you."

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**Bruce says "Sadly, not every child's life can be saved, but if we continue to fund the equipment or research needs of the clinicians and researchers, hopefully more and more children will be saved and go on to live happy and healthy lives."**

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We are sincerely grateful to Bruce and Helen for their commitment to work wonders for sick kids now and into the future.

**To find out more information on how to leave a gift in your Will, contact our Community Relationship Manager, Diane Baartz.**

📞 07 3606 6138  
✉ [giftsinwills@childrens.org.au](mailto:giftsinwills@childrens.org.au)