



IMPACT REPORT

2023-24 VARIETY - THE CHILDREN'S CHARITY
NSW/ACT







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Our Vision

For all Australian children to reach their full potential, regardless of ability or background.



Our Mission

To empower Australian children who are sick, experiencing disadvantage or living with a disability to live, laugh and learn.

Chair Message

As I take on the role of Chair for Variety NSW/ACT, I am filled with both gratitude and a deep sense of responsibility.

My journey with this incredible charity began as a beneficiary of its support almost 30 years ago, and I have experienced firsthand the transformative impact it has on individuals and communities.

This past year has been remarkable, once again showing the dedication of our staff, donors, volunteers, fundraisers and corporate partners.

In the current financial climate, marked by a cost-of-living crisis, raising funds has become increasingly difficult. Many in our community are feeling the strain, which understandably affects their ability to support charities like Variety.

Despite these challenges, I am continually inspired by the resilience of our supporters and their commitment to our mission of empowering children who are sick, experiencing disadvantage or living with a disability.

With your help, we have expanded our grants, programs and scholarships, reaching more children than ever before by adapting our services to meet their evolving needs.

In particular, the need for our We Care Grant continues to grow with 155 grants – valued at more than \$300,000 – provided this year. These grants enable children to access therapy to develop the skills they need to live happy, healthy and successful lives.

As for successful lives – it was a record-breaking year for our Variety Heart Scholarship program with 104 children recognised for their incredible talents across sport and the arts. More than \$430,000 was invested in supporting these young people to pursue their dreams and I'm sure we will hear more success stories from them in the years to come.

Thank you to each and every supporter who has helped us to make such a difference in the lives of children, families and communities this year.

Thank you also to the Board for their support, and to outgoing chair, Dr Greg Levenston, for his many years of loyal and dedicated service.

Looking ahead, I am hopeful about all the possibilities that lie before us. We will continue to strengthen our partnerships, innovate our programs and engage our community to ensure our impact grows, delivering on our vision for all Australian children to reach their full potential, regardless of ability or background.



Greg Lewis
Variety NSW/ACT Chair



CEO Message

Over the past 12 months, I've had the privilege of seeing the impact Variety NSW/ACT is making in the lives of children, young people and families in what continues to be challenging economic times for many.

I've also seen the lengths our supporters will go to, be it vast physical distances as part of a Variety motoring event or the generosity of spirit through fundraising efforts.

On behalf of everyone at Variety, I express my thanks to those individuals, groups and corporations for recognising this crucial need and stepping up in support of children and families.

We know that the support Variety provides helps children and families to move forward – whether that's with a medical diagnosis, a life-changing piece of equipment or a grant to remove financial barriers to pursuing their ambitions. Whilst a piece of mobility equipment has a price in dollars and cents, there is no price that can be put on removing a stigma that a family may be facing.

Our Just Like You program works with school aged children to increase their understanding and confidence when they meet a person living with a disability. The program empowers children to see beyond someone's behaviour or characteristics and to be a friend to that person, embracing them for who they are. This year, the program reached more than 40,000 students – an incredible result which will help to set a strong foundation in young lives.

Young lives are also being transformed in Western NSW where our Variety Flying Start Paediatric Service is enabling children to access the quality healthcare they need to thrive. I was humbled earlier this year to visit Walgett and Lightning Ridge to see this innovative program in action. There, I spoke with parents, nurses, doctors, allied health workers and school principals who were overwhelmed with gratitude for the free paediatric assessments we are now offering. Tears were shed – tears of frustration for the challenges they have faced over many years, and tears of joy for the hope that Flying Start has brought them. It is a program of which everyone at Variety is incredibly proud and one with infinite potential - the sky really is the limit.

The ability to respond to the needs of children and families across NSW and the ACT is made possible through the unwavering support of donors and fundraisers, volunteers and event officials, the Variety Board and our staff members.

As we approach the 50th anniversary of Variety in Australia, I look forward to working together to ensure our efforts can deliver the outcomes required for the next 50 years.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Warner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line underneath the name.


Tony Warner
Variety NSW/ACT CEO



Our Impact

With your support, we unlock the potential of every child. We empower children, regardless of their ability or background, to live life to the fullest.

Our vital work opens doors to improved mobility, freedom and community, enabling children to thrive. Thanks to your generosity, we deliver transformative grants, programs and events that create lasting change for children who are sick, experiencing disadvantage or living with a disability across NSW and the ACT.



TOTAL COMMITTED TO HELPING KIDS IN NEED:
\$2.1 Million

Thanks to your support in 2023/24, we impacted:



children across NSW/ACT



children across Australia



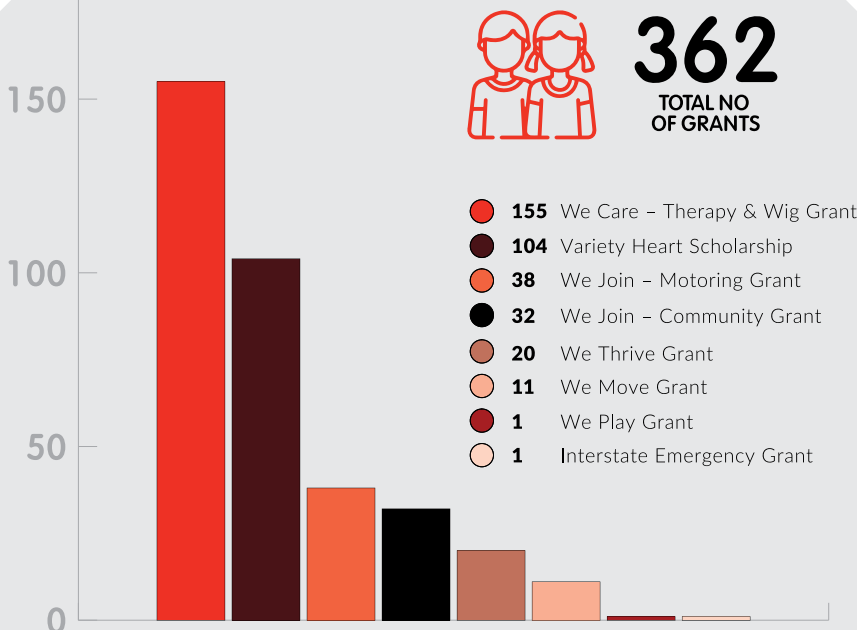
41,695
STUDENTS ATTENDED
JUST LIKE YOU
WORKSHOPS

171
SCHOOLS PARTICIPATED
IN JUST LIKE YOU
WORKSHOPS



1,372
CHILDREN
ATTENDED
XMAS PARTIES

NUMBER OF GRANTS PROVIDED IN 2023/24



21
CHILDREN
ATTENDED FLYING
START CLINICS





OUR PROGRAMS



Flying Start Paediatric Service

The Variety Flying Start Paediatric Service is a flying outreach program that offers free paediatric assessments for children and young people in north-western NSW.

Variety partnered with Marathon Health in 2023 to deliver the innovative service to address the two year wait families are facing for a paediatric assessment and to bridge the gap in healthcare services for children in regional NSW.

With a dedicated paediatrician working alongside Marathon Health's allied health team, the Variety Flying Start Paediatric program enables children and young people in north-western NSW to access the quality healthcare they need to thrive.

The first flight took to the skies in May 2024, with Paediatrician, Dr Tim McCrossin, travelling to Walgett to work alongside a clinical psychologist, occupational therapist, and speech pathologist. The team were supported on the ground by the Wellbeing and Health In-reach Nurse working in the local school and drew on the expertise of local GPs and school counsellors. The clinic was attended by five local children, all of whom had diagnoses confirmed.

With a flight to Lightning Ridge in June and an overnight flight to Walgett and Lightning Ridge in July, a total of four clinics have now been delivered with 21 children seen. All these children are now under a shared care plan between their GP and the paediatrician, with 90% of them having two or more diagnoses. This high level of healthcare complexity in the community further demonstrates the need for connecting children in remote and regional areas to specialised, quality care and unlocking access to much needed supports through the NDIS.

The Flying Start service has also facilitated vital educational support for students in north-western NSW, where one public school has now been funded for a new multi-categorical class in 2025 which will provide a learning environment where students living with a range of different disabilities can work together.

Watch now and discover how Flying Start is changing the lives of families in north-western NSW.



Just Like You

Variety's Just Like You program aims to cultivate empathy, acceptance, and inclusivity among students by emphasising that individuals with disabilities share the same human experiences as everyone else and are 'just like you and I.'

This year, Just Like You facilitators delivered workshops to 41,695 students at 171 schools across NSW and the ACT, positioning the program as one of the most extensive in-person inclusivity education initiatives in the region.

The program's success is significantly attributed to the participation of professional facilitators who have lived experience of disability. Their involvement not only boosts students' empathy and understanding of disability and inclusion but also offers valuable employment opportunities for the facilitators.

A highlight from this year's program, Member for Gosford, Liesel Tesch MP, attended a Just Like You session at Kariong Public School in February, describing it as an inspiring step forward for people living with a disability and their peers.

"It was deeply rewarding seeing students' eyes and ears wide open to the topic of disability and inclusion," she said.

"Today's school students are the inclusion advocates of tomorrow who will help to make our community an even better place for all."

Schools wanting to find out about the Just Like You program can register their interest at www.justlikeyou.org.au or call the JLY team on 1800 047 349.





OUR GRANTS

We Care

The We Care Therapy Grant was launched last year to provide financial assistance towards therapy costs for children who are awaiting a diagnosis or are ineligible for NDIS support and require therapy.

Many of these children are missing out on much needed therapeutic intervention to support their development, quality of life, mental health, and participation at school.

This year, we provided 153 children with We Care Therapy Grants valued at \$306,000.

Catherine's 12-year-old daughter, Izabelle, was one of these grant recipients and Catherine shared their family's story with us.

"Izzy lives with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), as well as additional challenges related to Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Anxiety."

"She approaches life with a heartfelt belief that everyone deserves help and dedicates countless hours to finding ways to make a positive difference in the lives of others, embodying the spirit of kindness and community service."


"Receiving the We Care Therapy Grant has been a transformative moment for our family. The grant enables her to see an occupational therapist (OT) every fortnight for a total of 10 sessions at no cost, alleviating some of our financial burdens."

"This support has provided a tremendous sense of relief, as her OT is a fundamental part of Izzy's journey toward greater independence and wellbeing. Recently, with the consistent help of her OT, Izzy has shown significant progress in her therapy, making strides in both her personal development and daily living skills."

"The team at Variety has truly gone above and beyond in making us feel welcomed and accepted. From the very first interaction, their friendly demeanour helped to alleviate any initial apprehension we had about receiving the grant. Instead of facing scepticism or negativity, we have been embraced with open arms, creating an atmosphere of warmth and support."

"Every member of the team has taken the time to engage with us personally, fostering a sense of belonging that we didn't expect. Their genuine kindness and enthusiasm have transformed what could have been a daunting experience into a joyful journey. We are incredibly thankful to Variety for their generosity and compassion and are truly grateful to be a part of this wonderful community."

As part of Variety's commitment to providing practical support to families in need and increasing children's self-esteem, we also provided two children with We Care Wig Grants in 2024. Losing your hair in childhood and adolescence, through alopecia and other medical conditions, can have a profound psychological effect on young people. These grants cover the prohibitive expense of specialised wigs which can cost up to \$6000.



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WE CARE GRANTS

We Join

32 We Join Community Grants, valued at \$196,647, were approved this year, including a \$10,000 grant to enable Young Minds Thrive, a Nambucca Valley based charity, to develop a Community Learning Library to improve school readiness.

Young Minds Thrive Founder, Karyn Thomas, explains the profound yet simple belief the organisation shares with Variety: every child deserves a chance to thrive, no matter where they call home.

“By providing a central access point for assistance, increasing child development screening rates, facilitating fast referrals for vulnerable children, empowerment of parents and raising community awareness, we’re paving the way for brighter futures,” she said.

“In just over six months, we have provided health development and early learning support assessments to more than 200 local children, we’ve completed more than 200 child ear health and hearing screenings, and we have seen 66% of our local schools participate in our Empowering Futures: School Screening Program.”

“With local schools on board, the crucial next steps involve working hand in hand with families to build parenting capacity and awareness of supporting healthy development in their children. Enter Variety and the We Join Community Grant, which is now funding our first Community Learning Library initiative, the Empowering Futures: School Ready Program.”

The program targets children aged four to five years old and provides specifically curated learning resources, including an interactive workbook and developmental tools, empowering families to foster their children’s growth and ensure they are well prepared for early learning success.

The workbook covers key developmental milestone areas while parents participating in the program have access to online support and those children identified as developmentally vulnerable are connected to local services for early intervention.

Karyn says she believes the program can reduce developmental vulnerability in the Nambucca Valley and ensure all children experience early learning success — outcomes the community has not seen in over 15 years.

“Our Variety We Join Grant is a game-changer for all of us. It not only enhances outcomes for individual children but also strengthens the resilience and vibrancy of our community.”

“This grant empowers us to lead the change we envision, demonstrating to our government and those in local positions of power, that better outcomes for regional children are achievable.”

“I aspire for the Nambucca Valley to be known as a community that invests in its children, striving for healthier, happier futures for all. Together, we are just getting started.”



32  **WE JOIN – COMMUNITY GRANTS**





We Thrive

With more than 14,000 children and young people in Out of Home Care across NSW, it is well understood that flexible, financial support is needed to empower these young individuals to take meaningful strides towards independent living.

The Variety We Thrive Grant is dedicated to supporting teenagers exiting Out of Home Care, providing them with additional funding to support a successful and sustainable transition to adulthood.

15 young people entered the second year of their three-year We Thrive Grant in February, with an additional five young people approved for a two-year grant in April.

With funding over multiple years, the grant is designed to improve access to:

- **Education and training** including support for mentoring, extra tuition, educational equipment and resources, excursions and camps and transport to and from school.
- **Career pathways** including support to access career counselling services, mentoring and resources for internships, work experience and vocational courses.
- **Health and well-being** including access to mental health professionals, life skills training and accommodation support.
- **Community and social connection** including cultural and kinship programs, sporting club memberships, music and art lessons and engagement in social and community events.

Variety works closely with caseworkers to support young people to utilise their grant, respecting each have unique circumstances and goals. Caseworkers complete a biannual survey assessing the impact of the grants and sharing positive feedback with us.

“Every aspect of the young person’s life has benefited with this grant. The young person has been able to get more support with his schooling and has started purchasing things for when he leaves his carer’s home when he is 18, like a new desk and bed. He’s been able to support his physical health and mental health, as well as cultural identity. He would like to buy a kayak to go out on country and explore. Being able to access these things has benefited him so much. He’s excited about the future and his options.”

We deeply appreciate the continued support of the Andrew Pratten Charitable Trust and their crucial role in making this program a reality.



We Move

The Variety We Move Grant is designed to fill the gaps in funding for kids living with a disability to purchase life-changing equipment.

Of the 11 grants – valued at \$114,662 – delivered this year, the one received by five-year-old Goo-Ujin shows the incredible difference this type of mobility equipment can make to children experiencing isolation and families living with financial distress.



Goo-Ujin is a bright and cheeky five-year-old, full of curiosity and affection for the world around her.

She loves nothing more than playing with cars and dolls alongside her little brother and snuggling with her parents.

But Goo-Ujin's journey has been anything but easy.

"When Goo-Ujin was born at just 32 weeks, an MRI brain scan revealed she had experienced a neonatal stroke, leading to a diagnosis of epilepsy and congenital heart disease," said Amanda Lidis, Goo-Ujin's Occupational Therapist.

"Nine months later, her parents noticed she couldn't move her right hand and was weight bearing on her right toe. After a visit to the neurologist, they discovered she had Cerebral Palsy."

Through it all, Goo-Ujin has remained a joyful and determined little girl despite her limited mobility and the ongoing support she needs.

"Goo-Ujin can't walk independently, so she gets around by crawling short distances, being carried or using a stroller which is becoming increasingly difficult as she grows," said Amanda.

"While her right hand is predominantly affected, she faces challenges using either hand for fine motor tasks and needs help with everything from putting on a t-shirt to holding a pencil or playing with toys."

With Goo-Ujin set to start school next year, her family was committed to providing her with the independence and social inclusion she should have, but financial

constraints made it impossible to afford the specialised therapy and equipment she needs to thrive.

That's when hope arrived. Thanks to two successful Variety grant applications, the family secured funds for school readiness therapy valued at \$2000 through the We Care Therapy Grant, along with a brand-new Zippie Xcape manual wheelchair with power assist, valued at \$18,000, through the We Move Grant.

This investment in Goo-Ujin's future has already transformed her daily life.

"In just three lessons, Goo-Ujin has learned to drive the wheelchair herself! She can go, stop and turn around, and she's enjoying steering towards her favourite toys and playing hide and seek with her younger brother," said Amanda.

"It's truly amazing to watch. Goo-Ujin has never experienced this kind of freedom or confidence before. We've already taken her to the shops and the park, and next year when she starts kindergarten, she'll be able to navigate the school on her own and make friends."

The school readiness therapy – including speech pathology, physiotherapy, and occupational therapy – will further empower Goo-Ujin to improve her communication skills, drawing, and handwriting.

"We can't thank Variety enough. Thanks to you, Goo-Ujin now has the opportunity to move, play and learn – just like every child deserves."



Variety Sunshine Coaches

The Variety Sunshine Coach program supports the delivery of Variety's mission to ensure all children have the same opportunities in life.

The coaches provide vital transportation for students to access educational, sporting and community activities that were previously out of reach due to children living with a disability or chronic illness, financial hardship, or geographic isolation.

The lack of safe, accessible transport is a major barrier for many families and the cost of modifying a vehicle and installing a vehicle lift isn't an option for many families, schools and community organisations.

Since Variety Australia was founded in 1975, the Variety Sunshine Coach program has granted 1472 coaches to schools and community organisations across the country.

COVID-19 impacted Toyota and Mitsubishi's production of coaches causing a worldwide delay in delivery. While there were no new Sunshine Coaches granted this year, we were delighted to deliver eight coaches, granted over the past two years, to schools across NSW.

Cecil Hills High School and Grafton High School received their much-anticipated Sunshine Coaches this year. The

coaches were made possible through donations from Woolworths and funds raised during the annual state charity appeals in store.

Cecil Hills High School Principal, Andrew King, shared his thoughts on their new wheels:

"This new bus is not just a vehicle; it is a gateway to numerous opportunities for our students. It will allow us to expand our educational excursions, sporting events, and community service projects. Our students will now have the means to explore new places, engage in enriching experiences, and participate fully in all aspects of school life."

"This new bus represents a significant step towards promoting equity within our school community. Many of our students face challenges that can make access to transportation difficult. By providing a reliable and accessible mode of transport, we are ensuring that all students, regardless of their circumstances, have equal opportunities to benefit from the educational and extracurricular activities that our school offers. This bus will help bridge the gap and ensure that every student can participate and thrive."

Variety Heart Scholarships

A para-alpine skier, an archer and two equestrian vaulters were among the 104 children who received Variety Heart Scholarships in 2024.

The scholarships support talented young people in either sport or the arts who are sick, experiencing disadvantage or living with a disability.

This year's record-breaking program saw children aged 7 - 18 years granted \$431,232 for 74 sports grants and 30 grants across the arts.

The calibre and commitment of recipients who are achieving incredible feats, despite financial or physical barriers, was once again impressive.

From the huge distances covered to access specialist training to the sacrifices made to afford lessons and competitions, Variety is proud to be supporting these children to reach their full potential.

Leah Walker's 13-year-old daughter, Ivy, received a \$5,000 grant for her efforts in both para-alpine skiing during Winter and the NSW blind cricket team in Summer.

"Ivy was born with a range of visual conditions which has seen her undergo numerous operations and invasive treatments. Despite this, Ivy has shown exceptional sporting prowess and has been earmarked for future Australian and paralympic representation," said Leah.

"The scholarship will enable Ivy to move from the NSW Blind Cricket team into the Australian Blind Cricket pathway program and pursue her dream of representing her country in the sport she loves and that has brought her so much joy at the times she has needed it most."



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VARIETY HEART
SCHOLARSHIPS

Since 2017, our Variety Heart Scholarships have been made possible thanks to the generous support of presenting partner, the Grahame Mapp Family Foundation in honour of the late Gillian Mapp. Variety is grateful to the Grahame Mapp Family Foundation for making dreams come true on behalf of every child who has been awarded a Variety Heart Scholarship.

Grahame
MAPP Family
Foundation





OUR EVENTS



Variety KIDS xmas PARTIES

Vale Margaret White

With Marg White's passing this year, we remember with gratitude the incredible contribution she made to our Ladies of Variety and the whole Variety community.

Of all the events on our calendar, our annual Variety Kids Xmas Parties are the ones we know our staff, volunteers and our Variety families look forward to the most!

There were smiles all round at the Newcastle Variety Xmas Party as kids had their faces painted, made furry friends at the petting zoo, sang and danced their hearts out and, of course, met the one and only Santa Claus!

One parent shared, "It was our first time at your event today with my two year old. Can I just say WOW, how absolutely fantastic it was! The Santa was just so lovely and welcoming. The petting zoo was the favourite part of our day. Thank you so much."

We are so grateful to our incredible event partners, McDonald Jones Stadium and Woolworths, for making the event possible. An enormous thank you to all our valued supporters and volunteers who worked hard in the lead up and on the day of the event to ensure it was a festive success.

Our Sydney Variety Xmas Party was also filled with joy, fun and holiday spirit. Our thanks to the Ladies of Variety who helped to bring the event together and to the International Convention Centre Sydney for generously providing the event space which made for such a memorable day. From amusement rides and live entertainment to our Bash cars and NSW emergency services – there was something for all ages to enjoy and it was wonderful to see smiles on so many little faces. We are grateful to all our supporters who joined us on the day and can't wait to do it all again next year!



Spin 4 Kids

Variety thanks the 70 corporate teams who spun their way to fun, fitness, and a fundraising total of \$290,694 across our annual Spin 4 Kids events.

With three events this year – in Sydney, Parramatta, and Newcastle – Spin 4 Kids continues to grow in popularity amongst corporations who can enjoy a team building experience while taking on the ultimate spin bike challenge to support kids in need.

Dressed in costumes and battling it out on the bikes for up to five hours, this year's participants ranged in age from 20 to a spritely 67 with everyone united in their commitment to keep the wheels spinning for those kids who need it most.

The heart thumping, music pumping event rewards teams with prizes for best dressed team, highest fundraisers and the coveted Kings and Queens of Spin trophy for those who clock up the most kilometres.

Spin 4 Kids would not be possible without the support of our presenting partners: KPMG, Endeavour Energy and Newcastle Coal Infrastructure Group.

KPMG Partner, Transaction Services, and Variety Board Member, Mat Saunders shared the following of the Sydney event: "KPMG supports Spin 4 Kids as it's a great teams-based event that everyone can get involved in. We have everyone from our CEO to graduates participating. It promotes health and wellness and importantly, as a charity event, the day raises money for vulnerable kids in need of a hand. Plus – it's a fun day!"





Motoring Events

Our legendary motoring events journey through every corner of Australia. Along dusty bush tracks and down the backroads of charming country towns, our motoring participants travel – whether Bashers, Dashers, Riders, or Adventurers – enjoying breathtaking scenery and creating memories with old friends and new mates.

But these events are about more than just the adventure. Our dedicated teams not only travel through remote communities – some tiny towns with populations under 100 – they also engage in heartfelt philanthropy that truly makes a difference in the lives of children and families in need.

From the joy on children's faces to the tangible support we provide, our motoring events embody the spirit of Variety.

This year, our events raised a collective \$3.4 million, thanks to the commitment and extraordinary fundraising efforts of our motoring community.

Beyond the funds raised, these events are renowned for creating inspiring moments, allowing participants to witness the impact of their fundraising on regional communities.

This year, we delivered 38 We Join Motoring Grants to schools and community organisations in regional areas.

These grants cover the prohibitive cost of vital educational resources – from playground and sporting equipment to laptops and library books.

A highlight of this year was the 40th anniversary of the B to B Bash. Following the tracks of the trailblazing 1985 original Bash convoy, we celebrated the legacy of the event that has become an Australian tradition and continues to unite people for our incredible cause.

From looking back to looking ahead, you can make a date to join us on two or four wheels in 2025. Mark your calendars and be part of our motoring community.





2023 Variety Postie Bike Dash

The 2023 Variety Postie Bike Dash was our biggest and best Dash to date, with the 10th anniversary ride raising an enormous \$379,800. Our 117 Dashers, 27 of whom were new, rode 1,130 kilometres to deliver eight grants totalling \$32,664 to regional schools and communities. A big thank you to our amazing sponsors Tamex Transport, First National Real Estate and Australia Post.



2024 Variety 4WD Adventure

In 2024 the Variety 4WD Adventure Sky High soared to epic heights with 72 Adventurers taking the journey through some of Australia's most breathtaking landscapes while raising over \$317,000 to support kids in need. On route we delivered four grants to schools and community organisations for sporting equipment including basketball hoops and specialist trikes.



2024 Variety Adventure Ride

2024 marked the fifth annual Variety Adventure Ride, seeing 20 riders, including 11 new riders, raise over \$130,600 to support kids in need. Travelling through the Victorian High Country, the Riders granted \$17,000 worth of vital resources to three communities: Porepunkah Primary School, Mansfield Junior Football Club and Delegate Public School. Thank you to Pickles, our event sponsor, for providing the power to make the 2024 Variety Adventure Ride possible.



2024 Variety NSW Bash

The 2024 Variety NSW Bash was an impressive seven-day road-trip that welcomed 84 first-time Bashers in 16 new cars, alongside 175 returning Bashers in 80 cars, to raise over \$1.2 million for kids in need. With a remote start in Gunnedah, our Bashers spent seven days exploring New South Wales and Southern Queensland to grant \$60,000 worth of equipment and resources to regional schools. An enormous thank you to our major sponsors of the 2024 Variety NSW Bash, Regional Australia Bank. We are so grateful for the support from Woolworths, Daracon, AHA Newcastle Hunter and Hunter City Motor Group.



2024 Variety B to B Bash

The 2024 Variety B to B Bash was one for the history books, celebrating the 40th anniversary of the famous event. Driving in the original 1985 Basher's tracks, 188 Bashers drove from Bash's Billabong in Dubbo to Bombira, raising an epic \$1.4 million to support kids in need. Over the 6,078 kilometre journey, we stopped at 11 schools and granted more than \$74,000 for vital equipment and resources in regional communities.



Thank You, Woolworths Team & Customers

The partnership between Variety and Woolworths in New South Wales and the ACT has been making a difference in the lives of children and families in need since 2013. On behalf of the children we support, we extend our deepest gratitude to Woolworths customers and team members.

This year, the Woolworths Small Change Appeals have once again demonstrated the power of collective generosity, raising a total of \$911,094. We are grateful to Woolworths for their incredible \$300,000 donation and to every Woolworths customer who purchased a \$2 token or rounded up at the checkout. We are truly humbled by the kindness and passion of the Woolworths community.

Donations from Woolworths and funds raised during the Small Change Appeals helped to deliver two Sunshine Coaches to Cecil Hills High School and Grafton High School this year. These coaches will provide vital transportation for students to access educational, sporting and community activities.

Woolworths State Director of Operations NSW/ACT,

Matthew Spiteri, said, “Over the years, it’s been great to see the tangible impact of our partnership with Variety.”

Beyond the Small Change Appeals, Woolworths has been an invaluable partner in countless other initiatives.

Woolworths’ participation in the 2024 Variety NSW Bash, combined with in-store fundraising, resulted in a remarkable \$113,381 raised. A special shout-out to The Wooliesaurus and The Rocket teams, who collectively raised \$26,926.

Whether it’s through our Family Fun Days, Kids Xmas Parties or Spin 4 Kids events, we are grateful for Woolworths’ ongoing compassion and commitment to bringing joy to kids in need.

In particular to Woolworths team members, your tireless enthusiasm and commitment to making sure children have the support they deserve is invaluable.

Thank you, Woolworths, your unwavering support is transforming lives!

Thank You, Hair with Heart Heroes

Each year, our Hair with Heart program receives over 3,000 donated ponytails from big-hearted people across the country. The funds Variety receives for the hair allows us to provide We Care Wig Grants and to support kids who are sick, experiencing disadvantage or living with a disability.

Growing up with Alopecia deeply affected Seray's self-esteem but a hair donation changed her life and her confidence.

Seray's mum, Therese, shared their story and the impact that receiving a wig has made on their family.

"Seray's journey began at three years old when she fell ill, marking the onset of her autoimmune disorder, Alopecia," said Therese.



"It began with her hair spotting, which I noticed when she was in preschool, and I was devastated. Over the coming months, she continued to lose more and more hair until it was almost all gone. I researched every type of treatment and went to many specialists, but ultimately decided not to pursue anything that could be invasive or painful for her. Over the next few years, Seray's hair would grow back only to fall out again. This was always the case, a painful rollercoaster."

"I felt powerless as a mother and very sad for my daughter because this was something I could not fix for her. The turning point came when I discovered Variety Wig Grants."

"Ordering her first wig was a transformative experience. Seray chose a wig long enough that she could wear braids and ponytails like her friends, and it was fantastic to see her light up during the process. I remember so vividly seeing Seray sitting in the chair with her hair styled the day she got her first wig - the joy on her face was unforgettable. The wig gave her confidence, allowing her to swim, play sports, and fully participate in life. The change to her self-esteem and confidence was lasting."

"Thank you to all the hair heroes who are donating to Variety's Hair with Heart. As parents of children affected by Alopecia, we are deeply grateful for the profound impact programs like Hair with Heart have had on our lives. Seray is becoming more confident and no longer feels isolated because of her hair loss. They are not just donations but a vital part of a process that genuinely transforms lives. The support of incredible people who give their hair is invaluable and integral to us."

Cut your hair. Show you care.

By joining Hair with Heart and donating your hair to Variety, you can change the life of a child like Seray.

Find out more:

hairwithheart.variety.org.au



OUR THANKS

MAJOR PARTNERS



Grahame
MAPP Family
Foundation

THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

Andrew Pratten Charitable Trust
De Lambert Largesse Foundation
Humanitix
Marie Taylor Trust
Essential Energy
The Stag & Hunter Hotel
St Marys Rugby League Club
Motorserve Pty Limited
CRE Insurance Broking Pty Ltd
The Manildra Foundation
Winten Property Group
Endeavour Energy
Armstrong Family Superannuation Fund
Doof Media
Cullos Pty Ltd
Matana Foundation
Daracon Group
Gato Sales & Repairs
Altis Consulting
Allday Concrete
KPMG
Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation
Toyota Material Handling Australia Pty Ltd
AMP Foundation Charitable Trust
Waev Inc
The Canberra Raiders Pty Ltd
Check Point
The Shirley Ward Foundation
Newcastle Coal Infrastructure Group
Lindt & Sprungli
EA & N Hulak Foundation Pty Ltd
Firefighters Charity Fund
One Rail Australia (NSW) Pty Limited
Golden Vale Projects Pty Ltd
Chatswood Toyota
Fairfield RSL Memorial Club

Ready to Make a Difference?

Thanks to the incredible support of our community, Variety empowers children to thrive, no matter their ability or background. And the great news? You can join in our mission!



Become a Volunteer

Whether as an individual or part of a corporate team, we're always seeking enthusiastic volunteers. Corporate volunteering with Variety not only enhances team engagement but also makes a profound impact on young lives.

Learn more at variety.org.au/nsw/get-involved/corporates/volunteers



Join an Event

Participating in a Variety event is a fun and rewarding way to raise funds for children in need. These events connect you with fellow supporters and immerse you in the heart of the Variety family. Discover our upcoming 2025 events at

variety.org.au/nsw/events/



Make a Donation

Together, we can create lasting change for children and families across NSW and the ACT. Your donation helps fund our grants, programs and scholarships. Every contribution makes a difference - donate today at

fundraise.varietynswact.org.au/donate



Reconciliation Action Plan

Variety – the Children's Charity NSW/ACT is committed to actively participating in Australia's journey to reconciliation and acknowledging our country's history. We have embarked on the beginning of our reconciliation journey by developing a Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). The RAP process will enable us to further understand and respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures and provide a framework to develop a more informed and culturally respectful way of working alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and communities.





To find out more, visit variety.org.au/nsw/about/reconciliation-action-plan.





Stay in Touch

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