



HeartKids

Partnerships with Heart



Who we are

We are champions of the heart

HeartKids are Australia's champion for people impacted by childhood-onset heart disease (CoHD) which includes both congenital and childhood acquired conditions.

For nearly 50 years we have walked alongside individuals and families facing the challenges of heart conditions from birth and throughout life.

Our mission is clear: support, advocate and care deeply for those impacted by CoHD.

We stand beside families, offering tailored information, resources, and a community that truly understands their journey.

Each year, we deliver support in hospitals and in the community, educational resources, and a referral network to children, teens, and adults affected by CoHD in Australia.



Courageously Kind

Championing Change



United Community



Why we exist

- CoHD is an umbrella term that covers 30+ paediatric heart conditions.
- 8 babies are born everyday with a congenital heart defect - it is Australia's most common birth defect.
- Many more are diagnosed with a heart condition in childhood, including with rheumatic heart disease (RHD).
- CoHD is the leading cause of death of children aged under 12 months in Australia.
- 4 lives are lost to CoHD each week.
- \$2.2B economic cost to the Australian community.
- 250,000 Australians are directly impacted.
- 1 million immediate family members are indirectly impacted by CoHD.
- 6,400 RHD cases, rising by 1,600 by 2030.



How we support

Estimated **250,000** people live with CoHD in Australia.

We directly support **12,500**.

You can help us reach more.





How you can help

HeartKids is working everyday to reach more families, but demand continues to grow. With your support, we can expand our reach and be there for every child, teen, adult and family who needs us.

Fund our care

Fund a Support Coordinator. Expand our reach into regional areas and remote communities.

Fund our programs

- Fund a Teen Camp. The camps are a safe and welcoming environment offering support, education, guidance and reassurance at a time of great change.
- Mental health support programs for the entire family.
- Neuro-developmental and early childhood support programs.
- RHD support and prevention in collaboration with communities.

Extend our internal capacity

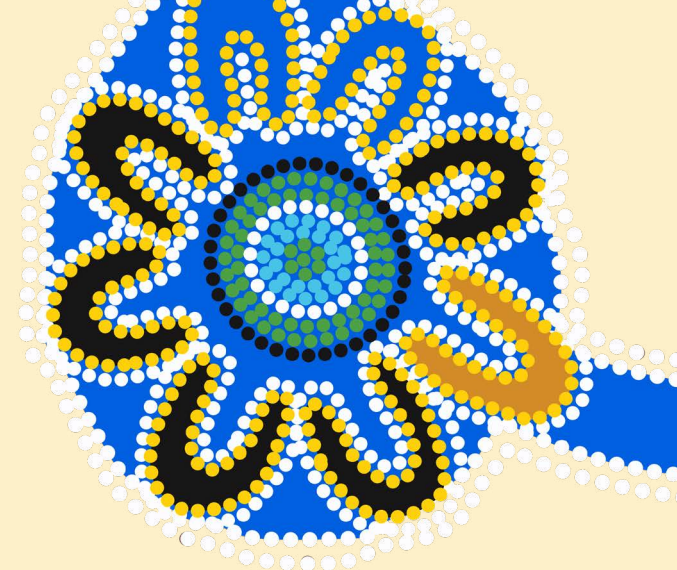
Fund Digital Transformation. Use your expertise to help us reach and support more people.

RHD support and education

Australia has the highest rate of rheumatic heart disease (RHD) in the world, a condition that is entirely preventable yet continues to disproportionately impact Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

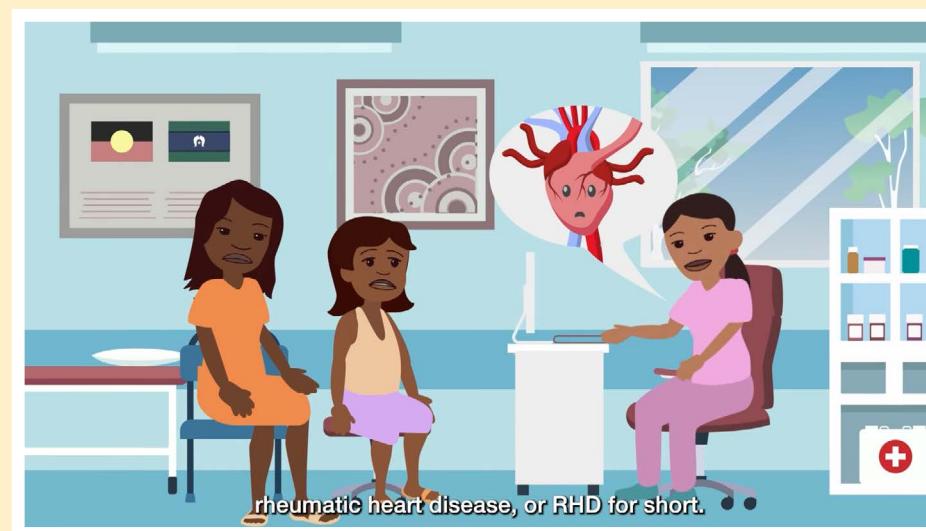
HeartKids work in collaboration with Communities

HeartKids works alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to support children and families impacted by childhood heart conditions, especially rheumatic heart disease (RHD). We are working with communities to build strong relationships and create meaningful links with healthcare providers and government, while developing collaborative solutions and culturally tailored resources to help prevent RHD. Whether it's navigating hospital stays, understanding treatment, or finding connection, we walk the journey together.



Animation - 'Gemma's Bicillin Day: What to expect when receiving treatment for RHD'

Education and communication piece for children receiving RHD treatment, to inform and help alleviate treatment anxiety.



A woman with dark hair, wearing a red polo shirt with a HeartKids logo, is leaning over a hospital bed. She is smiling and holding the hand of a young child with red hair who is lying in the bed. The child is wearing a white hospital gown and has a medical sensor on their arm. The bed is covered with a patterned blanket and several stuffed animals, including a pink one and a colorful one. The background is a blue hospital curtain.

In-hospital support

HeartKids provides practical and emotional support for parents, carers and families in hospital and in the community.

In-hospital and crisis support

We're by families' sides in hospital, offering support at bedside and through their toughest moments. Our dedicated team is based in hospital clinics and communities across Australia, providing essential informed care when families need it most.



In-community and regional support

HeartKids is providing community led, culturally safe support for Indigenous communities and those diagnosed with RHD. We provide vital support where healthcare is hardest to access, but demand continues to outstrip our current capacity.

We support around 1,254 families, but many more need help.

In-community and regional support

Reaching families where they live, providing in-community support, including mental health support and neuro development programs.

Helpline and online community

HeartKids Helpline and HeartKids Connect online community for emotional, practical and peer support, at anytime.



HeartKids teen camps

Heart teens describe our Teen camps as life changing. An experience that brings together young people with heart conditions in a safe and fun environment.

Camps are a unique chance to connect with peers who truly understand, build lifelong friendships, and gain skills to manage health and independence.

Teen camps offer education, information and social activities, connecting and empowering teens with shared experiences. The camps aim to strengthen participants physically, mentally and socially.

Teen camps have been placed on hold due to lack of funding.

Sponsor a teen to attend a teen camp for as little as \$1000.



Heart Kid Archie



Diagnosed before birth with complex heart defects, Archie has already undergone two open-heart surgeries and three additional operations due to complications — all before the age of two years.

His family travels from regional NSW to Brisbane for care, often spending weeks away from home, work, and each other.

HeartKids has been there during hospital stays, providing essential items, meals, and emotional support when it's needed most.

“For our most recent visit, I was airlifted up there so I had absolutely nothing with me. HeartKids have meals on the ward for families and emergency bags with supplies if you've had to rush or just weren't prepared. This, as well as the emotional support from Simone, is invaluable...
.Their reach just isn't far enough, and families like ours depend on what they do.”

SHELBY, MUM TO HEART KID ARCHIE

Heart Kid **Dominic**

HeartKids has been by Dominic's side since birth, providing **support for 15 years**.

Diagnosed in utero with Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome (HLHS), Dominic required open-heart surgery at one week old. He endured multiple hospitalisations and procedures over childhood, including second open-heart surgery at age 12 (2022).

Dominic's family have experienced ongoing emotional, physical and mental impacts, and it is anticipated Dominic will require further surgery in adulthood.

“HeartKids have been like a second family to us. They provided guidance and support from the moment Dominic was born. Whether it be offering information, an ear to listen when times were tough, providing morning tea to keep us going when we wouldn't leave Dominic's bedside or just providing company. They introduced us to other families going through the same circumstances, and that has created life-long friendships. Dominic has been blessed to be a part of HeartKids and has been given some wonderful opportunities to speak publicly about the organisation, which he loves passionately.”

KRISTY, MUM TO HEART KID DOMINIC



Our reach

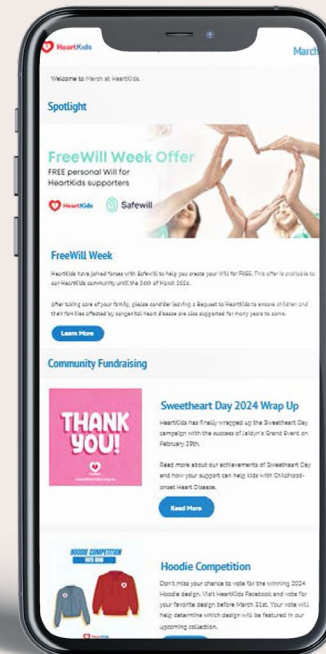
51K
Facebook
followers



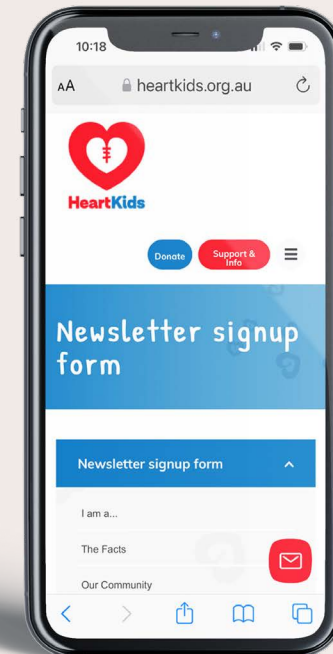
16K
Instagram
followers



200K+
Database
supporters



150K
eNews
subscribers




In the media

THE HOUSE OF wellness

HEALTH BEAUTY LIFESTYLE WELLBEING EAT ASK RADIO TV MUSIC

HEALTHY / CHILDS | THE CONCEPT OF CHILDREN FROM THE HOUSE OF WELLNESS



'She looked way too tiny to be wheeled off and have surgery'

© 14 February 2023

Before she even took her first breath, Anya faced a daunting diagnosis. Mum Kiya Odel opens up about the family's courageous journey with childhood heart disease.

It was during Kiya Odel's routine 20-week scan that a sonographer detected a problem with baby Anya's heart.

Further scans in Brisbane confirmed the diagnosis.

"When I found out, I was devastated," Kiya says. "I was told that Anya had a congenital heart defect, which meant she would need surgery to survive."

Anya's condition was so severe that she was born with a hole in her heart, which meant she would need surgery to survive.

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NEWS 13

Move that saved son

Family's battle for baby Dallas

Kish Spruell Dallas

While other parents were celebrating their new son, Kish Spruell was in a battle for his son's life. Dallas, born with a congenital heart defect, was born with a hole in his heart, which meant he would need surgery to survive.

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Haddon's Huey now has a 'sweet heart' after tough start to life



Huey Haddon | A young boy, Huey Haddon, is now a happy child after a tough start to life. He was born with a congenital heart defect, which meant he would need surgery to survive.

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Trentham Cliffs' heart warrior



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The Courier

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'Touch and go': why two Ballarat mums are giving thanks for their HeartKids

By **Michelle Smith**
June 11 2023 - 2:23pm

Ballarat mums Kimberley Hopper and Stephanie Rogers both know the agony of sitting in a hospital waiting room, wondering if they'll ever take their tiny babies home with them.

Ms Hopper's daughter Delilah, now a healthy nine-year-old, underwent more than 10 hours of open heart surgery at the **Royal Children's Hospital** when she was just eight days old, after being born with a congenital heart defect known as transposition of the

HeartKids calls for fly-in-fly-out specialist to be sent to Cairns

The leading charity for children's heart disease is calling for a fly-in-fly-out doctor to help Far North Queensland's only cardiologist, as more than 250 children wait to be treated.

Emma Cam | Cairns Post | 2 min read | June 9, 2023 - 9:53PM

'Rough' start but Freddie's all heart

EXCLUSIVE James Morrow

When Freddie Clark was born over the Anzac Day long weekend, his parents, who were expecting a healthy baby, were shocked to learn that their son had a congenital heart defect.

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Daily Telegraph

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HELP KIDS LIKE LYLAH

PARTIES URGED TO HAVE A HEART

JESSICA ANTONIO

An Esperance family is backing a plea to the Government to grant \$7.5 million towards reducing the impact of childhood-onset heart disease which affects one million Australians.

In the lead-up to the Federal election, Australian heart disease charity HeartKids is putting forward the funding request to the Albanese Government and Federal Opposition to prevent the loss of the four young lives every week to the condition and support children and families with the disease, especially in regional areas.

Forty per cent of the regional and remote population who

Have a heart, charity urges all politicians

Sick kids still need help

Nikita McQuinn

The heart disease charity HeartKids is calling on all politicians to support the fight against childhood heart disease.

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Family's thanks for support

Lyiah Schmitt

Perth, more than 700km away from her home.

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\$10.5M in-kind media

Total audience reach **39M+**

Environmental, social and governance benefits

- Community Impact Program Investment
- Value alignment
- Internal cultural impact
- Co-branding opportunities
- Increased corporate visibility
- Demonstrate social responsibility

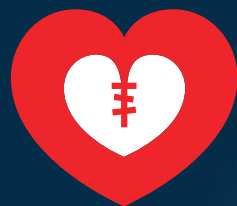


Our service delivery partners



Champion Change

Volunteer. Donate. Participate.



HeartKids

Marcus Sandmann
Chief Executive Officer

Marcus.Sandmann@heartkids.org.au

HeartKids acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands on which we live, work and gather today. We honour their ongoing connection to land, sea, waters and skies, and pay our respects to Elders past and present, as well as any Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people joining us today.

