



Annual Review
2016-17



Giving children their **childhood back**



ACT FOR KIDS ANNUAL REVIEW 2016-17



ABOUT ACT FOR KIDS

Act for Kids is an Australian charity providing free professional therapy and support services to prevent and treat child abuse and neglect in Australia.

Through prevention, treatment, research, education and advocacy, we are committed to supporting thousands of children, young people and their families.

OUR PURPOSE

To prevent and treat child abuse and neglect.

VISION

All kids have a safe and happy childhood,
free from abuse and neglect.

VALUES

We are a professional, ethical team who is
caring, courageous and collaborative.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Deputy Chairman	Mr John Manning
Treasurer	Mr Thomas Rice
Board Secretary	Mr Emmanuel Pappas
	Ms Zoe Newbury
	Ms Maria Rampa
	Mr Nigel Harris
	Mr Berkeley Cox
	Ms Leilani Pearce
	Dr Ryan Mills
Retired during 2016-17	Ms Lesley-Anne Houghton

EXECUTIVE TEAM

Chief Executive Officer	Dr Neil Carrington
Chief Financial Officer	Mrs Leanne Dreves
Executive Director of Services	Dr Katrina Lines
Executive Director of Marketing, Communications and Fundraising	Mr Rob Williamson
Executive Director of People, Culture and Infrastructure	Ms Koni Hanlon

PATRONS AND AMBASSADORS

Patron	His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland
Founding Ambassador	Dr David Wood
Ambassadors	Angie Asimus
	Joanne Desmond
	Karen Wilson
	Kay McGrath
	Lesley Dobson
	Maxine Horne
	Pedro Gondim
	Ram Kangatharan
	Samantha O'Brien
	Sascha Chandler
	Shane Parkins
	Sue Clarke
School Principal Ambassadors	Andrew Pierpoint
	Brett Shackleton
	Claudine Moncur-White
	Jenny Lewis
	Louise Wilkinson
	Mark Breckenridge
	Paul Zernike
	Wade Haynes

CEO AND CHAIRMAN REPORT

It gives us great pleasure to report that this past financial year has seen Act for Kids deliver support and therapy services to almost 35,000 kids and families across Australia. This is a 58% increase on the year prior and something we are immensely proud of. This year we have continued to focus on what we do best... putting little lives back together.

We continue to deliver services out of 22 centres nationally with a team of over 300 staff. We remain unwavering in our passion and commitment to making a difference. We have more programs, deliver more services and are seeing more children now than ever before. We are humbled to work with such incredible people who strive every day to see just one more child and help just one more family.

Our social enterprise Youthrive, continues to grow with the expansion from two sites to four. This fee-paying integrated therapy service has now reached over 2,000 kids in South East Queensland with all profit being returned to Act for Kids.

We remain focussed on running Act for Kids efficiently and productively, while simultaneously working on our strategic initiatives that all relate to a changing and growing business. One of our strategic pillars is to run the organisation in a way that captures our ongoing growth opportunities. We have made significant headway with the implementation of a new payroll system and new people management systems to ensure seamless workflow. Strategically, we also remain focussed on our strength in organisational culture as evidenced by exceptional employee engagement survey results and feedback.

While the team on the frontline are working harder than ever, our growth has largely been possible due to increased funding from sponsors, strategic partnerships and support from government agencies. An example of this is a grant from the Queensland Mental Health Commission to provide our SafeKids staff with the Family Wellbeing Program.

This year we have strengthened our relationship with the Vita Foundation – the philanthropic arm of Vita Group. Their \$200,000 commitment to helping us take our protective behaviours program national completely exceeded our expectations for how far this money could stretch and we saw 8,000 more children than anticipated.

Our partnership with the Daniel Morcombe Foundation continues to grow, with the Foundation now providing funding for three therapists, two on the Sunshine Coast and one at Ipswich, to provide counselling and support for kids and young people. Additionally, the Bryan Foundation have continued to provide ongoing funding for therapists in Brisbane and Townsville allowing us to see more families across multiple regions.

The Future Generation Investment Company (FGX) funding of \$123,000 has had an enormous impact on our services in Ipswich, Adelaide and Blacktown. It has enabled us to employ more therapists in these areas to meet the

increasing demand for services for abused and neglected kids. In Ipswich alone the FGX funding has allowed the team to work with an additional 47 children and their carers.

With the support of the Wilson Foundation, our Blacktown Integrated Therapy centre has been operating for over 18 months now and therapists have seen over 230 children during this time. The centre is working at capacity and on average receives at least 3 new referrals each week.

Last year we were thrilled to be chosen again as the charity recipient for the Mental Health Academy's Mental Health Super Summit. The innovative online conference was another huge success and raised over \$135,000 of untied funds to assist in expanding our reach.

In October, nine trekkers had the pleasure of taking part in the third annual Trek for Kids which saw them take on the Southern Alps of New Zealand. Together, they raised over \$110,000 for abused and neglected kids.

Our annual Gala Ball in May was another fantastic night, raising over \$120,000 and truly setting the bar for our 30th anniversary celebration next year. Thank you to our sponsors Mercedes-Benz Brisbane, Budget Direct, Vita Foundation, SRJ WW Accountants, Brennan IT, Stephen Dibb Jewellers and Oaks Hotels and Resorts and all the volunteers and supporters who helped make our biggest fundraising event such a success.

In addition to all of our wonderful corporate sponsors, the amount of pro bono support we have received this year has almost doubled. Thanks to the in kind support from organisations like King & Wood Mallesons, Publicis Q and many others we are able to channel our funds into what really matters, which is helping more kids.

The truth is, we could fill several pages of thanks to the numerous sponsors and pro bono supporters, and the efforts of our people that enable us to do what we do. We are incredibly grateful for all of the support that we receive, every volunteer, every staff and Board member and every donation that comes our way. But we know you don't do it for the thanks, you do it for the kids. And so do we.



Dr Neil Carrington
CEO



John Manning
Deputy Chair



AUSTRALIAN STATISTICS

IN **2015-16** ALONE THERE WERE **355,935** REPORTS
MADE TO CHILD PROTECTION AUTHORITIES IN AUSTRALIA

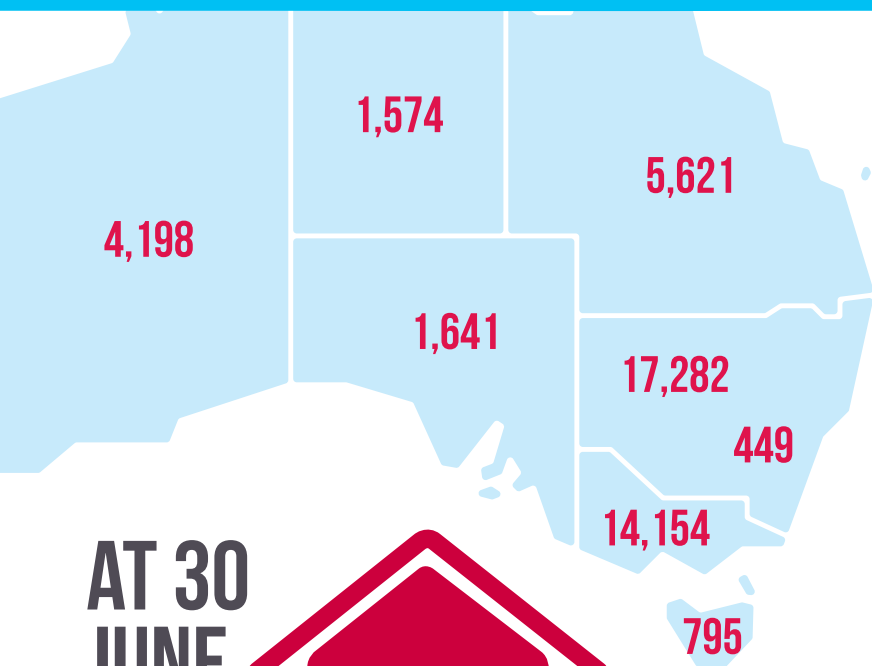


ONE REPORT
EVERY **90**
SECONDS

IN THAT SAME 12 MONTHS,
45,714 children
SUFFERED ABUSE OR NEGLECT
THAT'S **One child every 12 minutes**

BREAKDOWN BY STATE

OF CHILDREN CONFIRMED
AS ABUSED OR NEGLECTED



AT 30
JUNE
2016




CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUT OF HOME CARE



NATIONALLY, **emotional abuse** WAS THE MOST COMMON PRIMARY
type of abuse SUBSTANTIATED FOR CHILDREN

CHILDREN
UNDER 12 MTHS
WERE MOST LIKELY
TO SUFFER ABUSE
OR NEGLECT





AIDEN'S STORY



At 13-years-old, Aiden played the parental role in his relationship with his dysfunctional mother. He has a long history of trauma due to early exposure to domestic violence and his mother's mental health issues were causing him immense stress and anxiety. He was constantly distracted at school and was missing out on opportunities to socialise with his peers so he could be home to care for his mother.

When Act for Kids first met Aiden, he was struggling with overwhelming feelings of worry about his mother's health, wellbeing and capacity to cope. Aiden's mother had been trying to support him as best she could, however she couldn't meet his needs due to her own struggles.

Our sessions with Aiden focused on supporting him to explore his experiences of having to both protect his mother from abusive partners and provide care for her during episodes of poor mental health. Aiden was provided with a safe environment in which to express and process his thoughts and feelings and supported to develop positive ways to manage his symptoms of stress and anxiety.

We also supported Aiden's mother and focused on exploring her understanding of the ways in which her mental health was impacting her capacity to parent Aiden and contributing to his behavioural issues. As her awareness increased, she was able to seek help in relation to managing her mental health, which reduced her dependence on Aiden to meet her needs. They were finally experiencing a normal parent/child relationship.

Since engaging in therapy, Aiden's symptoms of stress and anxiety have greatly reduced and he has been observed by his teacher as being calmer and better able to focus within the classroom. On occasions when he does experience anxiety, Aiden is utilising the skills practised in therapy to self-regulate. Aiden has gained confidence in his ability to express his thoughts and feelings and no longer feels responsible for managing his mother's mental health. Aiden has increased his participation in after-school activities and has established and maintained friendships with his peers. Aiden's mother continues to access additional supports to better manage her mental health, enabling her to be more present as a parent and respond to her son's needs.

*Name changed to protect identity.

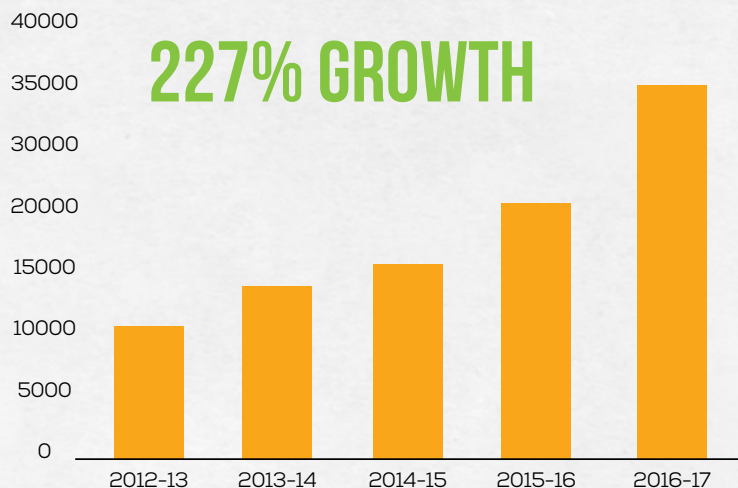
LAST YEAR, 138 KIDS STAYED AT OUR SAFE HOUSES!



Many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people under child protection orders or investigation are placed in care outside of their communities making maintaining family, community and cultural connections impossible. The Act for Kids Safe Houses operate in community to keep children safe whilst allowing them to remain close to family and build on their cultural connections.

Our SafeKIDS program operates in some of the most remote communities in Australia; Aurukun, Cairns, Doomadgee, Kowanyama, Napranum and Pormpuraaw. Earlier this year, we received a \$50,000 grant from the Queensland Mental Health Commission to provide our SafeKids staff with the Family Wellbeing Program. This initiative helps them understand their own trauma, grief and loss and find healthy ways of coping with life challenges whilst they are helping traumatised children in our safe houses.

**IN THE LAST
5 YEARS, THE NUMBER
OF SERVICES DELIVERED BY
ACT FOR KIDS HAS GROWN BY
227%**



In the last five years, Act for Kids has experienced dramatic growth in the delivery of services, as well as an increase in specialised staff and therapy centres.

Since 2012, Act for Kids has grown from having just 11 centres, all based in Queensland, to having 22 established centres including services in South Australia and New South Wales and plans for expansion into Victoria in 2018. Just three years ago, Act for Kids opened our flagship Centre of Excellence on the campus of James Cook University in Townsville and went from delivering our services out of borrowed rooms in a primary school when we first opened our doors in Townsville to welcoming our clients to an award-winning facility we can be proud of. Not only this, we now support three times as many children and families in the region in our beautiful, safe and welcoming centre.

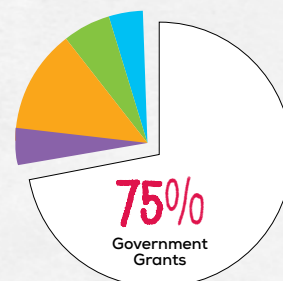
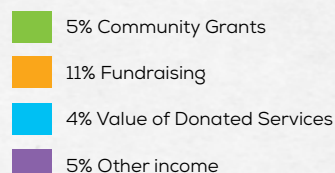
In five years, our team has grown from 156 people to now being a team of over 320 passionate and committed team members. Last year, we worked with over 34,000 Australian kids and families to get their lives back on track and this number will continue to rise because of the incredible team and amazing culture that makes up Act for Kids. Our team is growing as steadily as our footprint is and with a 99% response rate to our most recent Culture Survey, our team reports that they feel supported, are aligned to our values and really care about the future of Act for Kids.

FINANCIAL STATS

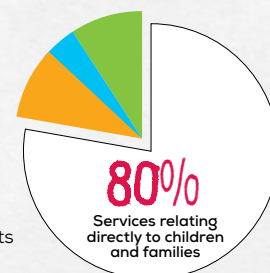
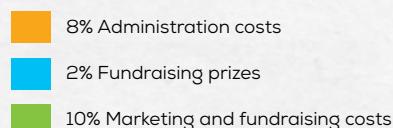


**80% spent directly ON SERVICES
RELATING TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Over \$1,290,000 IN PRO-BONO SUPPORT**

Revenue 2017



Expenses 2016



IN 2016-17, WE WORKED WITH 69% MORE KIDS THAN THE YEAR PRIOR.

7,350
2012-13



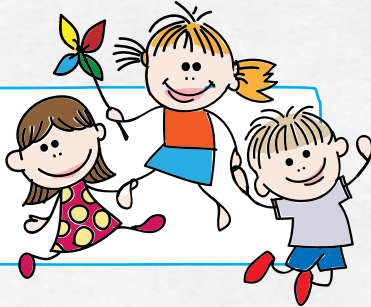
9,445
2013-14



11,519
2014-15



14,595
2015-16



24,597
2016-17



Our **Integrated Therapy Program** model continues to be an incredibly unique and highly sought after service as it provides the best outcomes for children who have suffered from abuse or neglect. The integrated approach means children benefit from sessions with a psychologist, speech therapist and occupational therapist concurrently. The therapists work together to create a plan that addresses all of the child's issues.

It's important to note that the complexity of these children's issues means that the recovery process can be long but our goal is to achieve substantial progress and make a positive difference to that child and their family.

Since opening in early 2016, our Blacktown centre in Western Sydney has provided intensive integrated therapy to over 237 children. Despite currently working at capacity, our Blacktown team still receives as many as three referrals each week due to the high demand for our service in the area.

In May 2016, we applied for a \$65,500 grant with the Property Industry Foundation (PIF) in the hopes of funding a part-time Speech and Language Pathologist in Ipswich. PIF exceeded our expectations and committed \$100,000 to cover a full-time role and ongoing costs for an entire year. This has helped us reduce the waiting list at our Ipswich centre by half and has allowed us to start taking on new referrals and helping even more kids.

Our **Walk Tall** program, funded by the Daniel Morcombe Foundation, continues to thrive as we provide counselling and emotional support to the children and adolescents who have experienced or are at risk of physical, emotion and/or sexual harm in the Sunshine Coast and Ipswich areas.



**WE WORKED WITH
1,977 KIDS IN OUR
INTEGRATED THERAPY
PROGRAM, AN INCREASE OF
107% ON THE
YEAR BEFORE.**

WE WORKED WITH **34,324** PEOPLE DURING 2016-17,
AN INCREASE OF **580%** ON THE YEAR PRIOR

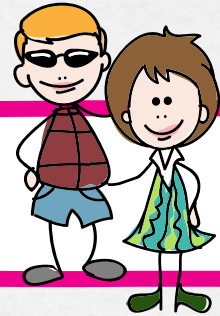
10,500
2012-13



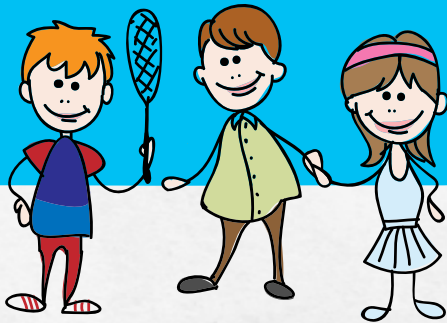
13,348
2013-14



15,868
2014-15



21,698
2015-16



34,324
2016-17



A partnership with PHN Central Queensland, Wide Bay & Sunshine Coast has allowed Act for Kids to deliver our in-school **Flourish Child and Family Therapy** program to the children and families at the Rosedale, Gin Gin and Isis State Schools in Bundaberg. With 656 children confirmed as abused or neglected in the Central Queensland region in 2015-16, the program aims to help children overcome their experiences of neglect and abuse through individual therapeutic support, group programs and counselling for families with a range of challenges.

In addition to our expansion into Bundaberg, Act for Kids continued to deliver services to high school aged students in North Brisbane and is currently working with students from schools in Morayfield, Caboolture and Dakabin.

The **Intensive Family Support (IFS)** program, continues to provide case management support to families at risk of entering the statutory child protection system. Our service in Kedron has shown innovation with their new community partnership with 'Build The Future'. The services focus on keeping kids healthy, reducing screen time and getting parents (particularly dads) more engaged with their kids.

With sessions held at a local gym where kids and parents can get active together, there are also parenting groups to give families with more complex needs some extra support. The program tripled in size in just a matter of weeks and Act for Kids therapists working with the families are noticing positive changes including higher school attendance and increased interaction between parents and their children.

Brett Illingworth and his family participate weekly in the Build the Future program and say "The Act for Kids experience has had a really positive effect on the kid's confidence and attitude towards a healthy lifestyle. The parent's group has been really fun with a really positive atmosphere."

Our Family and Child Connect (FaCC) services in partnership with the Queensland Government continue to provide advice, information and referrals to anyone interested in the safety or wellbeing of children and families. We frequently receive positive feedback from successful referrals who have benefited immensely from their initial contact with the Family and Child Connect service.

IN THE SPACE OF **EARLY**
INTERVENTION, WE WORKED WITH
20,665 PEOPLE
TO HELP THEM GET BACK ON TRACK.
THAT'S A **970%** INCREASE
ON THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

IN 2016-17 WE TAUGHT 11,544 GRADE ONE STUDENTS HOW TO KEEP THEMSELVES SAFE!

AN INCREASE OF 2900% ON THE YEAR PRIOR!

In five years, our protective behaviours program 'Learn to be safe with Emmy & friends' has gone from reaching just over 2,000 children in South East Queensland to now educating over 11,000 Grade One students nationally in just one year. The five week program delivers interactive sessions teaching children to identify their feelings, differences between their public and private parts of the body, safe and unsafe secrets and how to manage different situations that make them feel unsafe.

The 2016-17 financial year was by far our most impressive achievement to date in terms of delivery for the 'Learn to be safe with Emmy & friends' program. With the \$200,000 commitment from the Vita Foundation as the foundation for our work, we were able to be more strategic and more ambitious with how far the program could reach.

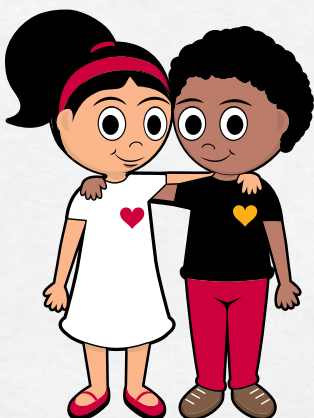
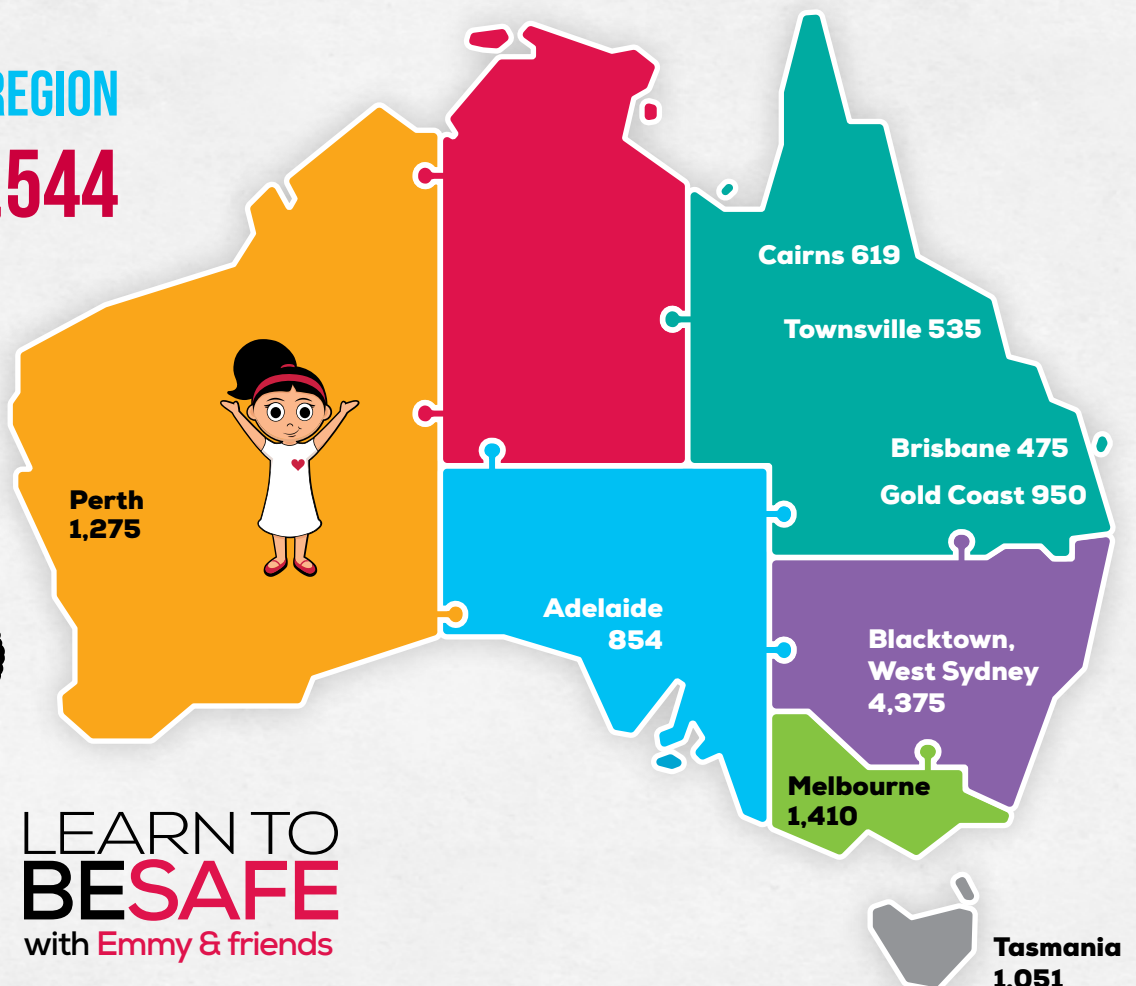
In just 12 months we worked with 92 schools across 519 classes to deliver what could be life changing education to help children keep safe. In addition to the initial funding from the Vita Foundation which allowed us to take the

program national, we also received a \$20,000 donation from the Morialta Trust to deliver the program to students in Adelaide as well as a \$40,250 donation from the Sisters of Mercy Congregation in Brisbane to deliver the program to students in Cairns.

In a large randomised controlled research trial of school-based protective behaviours programs within Australia, Act for Kids partnered with Griffith University, Queensland University of Technology, and James Cook University to evaluate the *Learn to be safe with Emmy and friends* program. The independent research across 9 schools and 611 students revealed that a child's knowledge of protective behaviours concepts substantially increased after receiving the program compared to children who did not participate and this was maintained at a 6-month follow-up and parents reported that conversations about personal safety with their children were more frequent and that children felt more comfortable discussing safety topics with them.

CHILDREN BY REGION

TOTAL 11,544



LEARN TO
BESAFE
with Emmy & friends

THANKS TO OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS



The contribution of volunteers in both economic and social terms truly can't be measured. We would like to acknowledge our dedicated team of individual and corporate volunteers, board directors and students who supported us this year.



THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS



Our generous sponsors give us so much more than money; many also provide pro-bono services and help us spread our message far and wide. Many of their amazing staff also volunteer to help us when we need an extra set of hands.

OFFICIAL PARTNERS



Flannery Family Foundation

Wilson Foundation

GOLD SPONSORS



SILVER SPONSORS



BRONZE SPONSORS



PRO-BONO SUPPORTERS

Expose Media
Zenith Optimedia
Zinc 90.7 Airlie
Zinc 100.7 Townsville
106.3 FM Townsville
Zinc 102.7 Cairns
Zinc 101.9 FM Macaky
4RO Rockhampton
4MCY Hot 91 Sunshine Coast
4KQ - Brisbane
4MNN Zinc 96 Sunshine Coast

97.3FM Brisbane
KIIS 106.5 Sydney
WSFM 101.7 New South Wales
Cruise 1323 Adelaide
MIX 102.3 Adelaide
2EC New South Wales
Power Bega New South Wales
2XL New South Wales
Snow FM New South Wales
2LT New South Wales
MOVE FM New South Wales

4CA 846 am Cairns
Star 102.7 Cairns
Star 90.7 Mackay
Star 101.9 Mackay
Star 106.3 Townsville
4MK Mackay
Hot 91.1 Sunshine Coast
Zinc 96.1 Sunshine Coast
4RO Rockhampton
Power 100 Townsville
4CC Gladstone

APN Regional Paper
Sunday Mail
ODNA
Daily Telegraph
WIN TV
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We apologise to anyone whom we may have missed.



For more information please call 1300 228 000 or visit our website actforkids.com.au

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ABN 98 142 986 767

To buy tickets in the Act for Kids Platinum Class Lottery call 1300 228 000 or visit platinumclass.com.au