



# Act for kids

Preventing and treating child abuse and neglect

## JACKSON'S\* STORY

Jackson was removed from his parents and placed into care within the first few weeks of his little life. He was born substance-addicted and experienced withdrawals from the moment he was born. Jackson came into this world faced with not only physical but also emotional challenges and circumstances to overcome.



Now three years old, Jackson is very small for his age due to the substance abuse he suffered in the womb and has experienced delays in his cognitive development, speech and language and fine motor skills.

When Jackson came to Act for Kids he was given a place in the Early Education Program and provided with specialist support from the Integrated Therapy team. Our team worked with Jackson on a range of activities to develop his fine and gross motor skills, cultural awareness and protective behaviours and also provided neurophysiological support. Despite Jackson's difficulty with speech and challenges to communicate verbally he learnt to enjoy these social interactions and was interested and engaged in learning more.

At the end of the year, Jackson was able to successfully transition to a mainstream community early education setting – a major accomplishment! Jackson's carers are happy with how he is coping and Act for Kids will continue to provide support to Jackson as his needs change.

With your help, Jackson has overcome some major obstacles and is now able to attend his local day-care and experience a stable and happy childhood, so thank you!

*\*Name changed to protect identity.*



## A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

For every beautiful story we can tell you, there's a hundred stories we can't tell you that will bring you to tears. While our reach and impact is getting bigger, the fact

remains that every 12 minutes an Australian child is abused or neglected. That's every 12 minutes!

Last financial year, we were able to provide therapy, support and education to **21,698** Australians, a **36%** increase on the year before.

It's not glamorous work that we do... our therapists will tell you that. But it's necessary and it's needed and through the strength of the team at Act for Kids and the ongoing support of those around us, everyday we put little lives back together.

I encourage you to connect with us on a more regular basis and follow our Facebook, Instagram or Twitter page. We love to share our stories and keep you up-to-date with the work we are doing in your community.

**Dr Neil Carrington**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

## MONSTER CRAYONS HIT STORES

After many months of anticipation, Monster Crayons are now available for purchase in selected Telstra stores around the country! These little monsters were brought to life by a whole bunch of good-hearted people who donated money, time, energy, expertise and lots and lots of love. Thank you in particular to Ben Lees and Christian McKechnie as well as the entire team at Publicis Q and Zenith Optimedia for their ongoing support and commitment to making a difference to the lives of abused and neglected kids around Australia.

**We have been completely overwhelmed by the positive response from the public and the media to our Monster Crayons and we are incredibly grateful to the Vita Group and Vita Foundation for facilitating the retail sale of Monster Crayons around the country.**

All of the profits from Monster Crayons goes back to Act for Kids to help kids in need through various forms of therapy including art and play therapy. We encourage you to grab a pack today for a loved one or just for yourself and everytime you draw with one, or watch a child draw with one, we hope you feel proud.

Please visit our website [www.actforkids.com.au](http://www.actforkids.com.au) for a full list of retail locations or buy a pack online!



## MORIALTA TRUST GIVES \$20,000 TOWARDS KEEPING KIDS SAFE

More than 1,000 children in South Australia will learn how to keep themselves safe thanks to a \$20,000 Morialta Trust grant awarded to Act for Kids.

The funds will allow Act for Kids to take their protective behaviours program 'Learn to be safe with Emmy & friends' to grade one students in the Port Adelaide and Enfield areas.

Act for Kids Director of Services, Dr Kaye Pickering said she was thrilled they were chosen to receive the grant.

**"This increased funding will help us keep more children safe in South Australia. We already have one centre which has been operating for two years but it will be fantastic to reach more kids and families through our school based program," Dr Pickering said.**

The Morialta Charitable Trust Fund supports programs that are innovative, provide early intervention and help those who struggle with social disadvantage.





## AUTO & GENERAL EMBRACE THE SPIRIT OF GIVING



**LAST YEAR, ACT FOR KIDS' LONGSTANDING PARTNERSHIP WITH AUTO & GENERAL CONTINUED TO FLOURISH WITH THE ORGANISATION RAISING OVER \$80,000 FOR CHARITY AND VOLUNTEERING COUNTLESS HOURS TOWARDS THE SUCCESS OF ACT FOR KIDS EVENTS.**

Act for Kids CEO Dr Neil Carrington says he is humbled by their outstanding contribution towards giving kids their childhoods back.

"Last calendar year alone, Auto & General staff contributed almost \$8,000 through their Workplace Giving initiative, held golf days, donated enough to put food on the table for 62 families at Christmas and two of their staff members even joined in on the Trek for Kids and raised over \$8,000 between them!" Dr Carrington said.

Auto & General's Community Manager Gerry O'Shaughnessy says that the 2016 effort from staff to support Act for Kids has been inspirational and rewarding.

"Whether in volunteering, fundraising, hiking, playing golf or contributing their hard earned cash, our teams have demonstrated their passion & commitment to our long standing community partner Act for Kids," Mr O'Shaughnessy said.

## ZOOM ZOOM - REACHING INTO THE COMMUNITY!

Our Blacktown team have been zipping around Sydney in their brand new car thanks to an incredibly generous anonymous donor.

Program Manager for the Blacktown centre Robyn Eliudi said the team are ecstatic to have a vehicle that will allow them to provide services for families and children that are unable to get to the office for much needed therapy.

**"Many of our most vulnerable families and children simply do not have the means to travel for appointments and our ability to go to them will remove one more hurdle in their lives," she said.**

"We have been able to establish an outreach assessment service working with a local reunification program, we've been attending meetings at local schools to support kids who are in foster care and are experiencing difficulties at school and we've been able to engage with key child safety organisations to help spread the word about Act for Kids," Robyn said.



## KAY MCGRATH, OAM

**ON AUSTRALIA DAY, LONG TIME AMBASSADOR OF ACT FOR KIDS AND SEVEN NEWS PRESENTER, KAY MCGRATH WAS AWARDED A MEDAL IN THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA FOR HER SERVICE TO CHILDREN AND TO THE BROADCAST MEDIA AS A JOURNALIST.**

Kay has made a significant contribution to highlighting child protection issues through her media profile and charitable work and has been a committed social justice advocate since 1984.

Since then, she has worked tirelessly to shine a light on an issue often pushed aside and been an invaluable advocate for the growth of Act for Kids.

Kay said she was thrilled and very humbled to accept this award of on behalf of the thousands of dedicated and unsung heroes on the 'frontline' of child protection and the countless brave survivors.

"If what I've done has improved the life of just one Queensland child over the last 33 years – I'm very happy!" she said.



## COLETTE MAKES FASHION COUNT!

Fashion giant Colette by Colette Hayman have brought fashion and charity together and released a fabulous line of fluffy pompom key rings in honour of Act for Kids and three other national charities.

The fluffy pink key ring is in stores now and retails at just \$4.99 with 100% of the proceeds going towards helping children who have been abused or neglected.

Act for Kids  
Marketing &  
Communications  
Manager, Penny

Parsons said it was exciting to see the product hit stores and help Act for Kids reach a new demographic of donors.

"It really is a perfect alignment between fashion and charity and it's fantastic to get our message out to a new generation of fashion conscious young women not only in stores but also through Colette's many strong social channels," she said.

"We are so humbled to have been chosen by Colette and know that many children around Australia will receive the therapy they need because of this campaign."



## GOLD COAST KIDS GIVE BACK



When a class of Grade five and six students at The Southport School decided to support Act for Kids this Christmas, Fundraising Manager Karen McIntyre was only too happy to go in and meet with the young philanthropists.

As it turns out, the founder of the Sunland Property Group, Soheil Abedian had given the class \$4,500 to go out and give back to their local communities. The boys chose to support Act for Kids due to our strong presence on the Gold Coast with centres at both Labrador and West Burleigh.

**When Karen met with the boys she was blown away by their excitement and enthusiasm to know more about the children Act for Kids works with.**

"The boys decided they wanted to gift children aged between 9 and 11 years old with Christmas presents, chosen by themselves. In total there was 123 kids they were buying for," Karen said.

Karen met with the class and their teacher Mr Mark Hoppe, at the Pacific Fair Shopping Centre to pick out the gifts they would be buying for their peers. "I've never seen such excited and generous young men," Karen said.

Act for Kids are incredibly grateful to the boys at The Southport School for their thoughtful gifts which were passed on to the kids who needed them most at Christmas.

## LEAVE A LASTING GIFT

Leaving a bequest to Act for Kids is one of the most compassionate gifts you can give. In our busy lives, we're often not able to give as generously as we might like to and leaving a gift in your will is a great way to support the vital work of charities you've always wanted to support but haven't been able to.

By leaving a gift you can give a child a positive future and be content in the knowledge that you are making a difference. Your bequest means that we can plan ahead with more certainty and continue to provide abused and neglected children with the therapy they need to get their childhoods back.

**To learn more about leaving a gift to Act for Kids, please visit our website [www.actforkids.com.au](http://www.actforkids.com.au)**

## WILL YOU TREK FOR KIDS?

**IMAGINE TREKKING ALONG THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA, TAKING IN BREATHTAKING VIEWS IN EVERY DIRECTION AND KNOWING EVERY KILOMETRE YOU COVER, YOU ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE TO CHILDREN IN AUSTRALIA WHO HAVE SUFFERED FROM ABUSE AND NEGLECT.**

This year's Trek for Kids will take place in China and you're invited! Let Sammie O'Brien from the Seven Network and Sue Clarke from Australian Survivor 2016 show you the way across some of Ancient China's greatest treasures. The challenge takes place on 28 September – 8 October 2017 and will not only be an adventure of a lifetime but most of all will help Act for Kids continue to give children and young people the support they need for a brighter future. Abuse and neglect is one of Australia's most misunderstood problems, which is why we are reaching out to our community to join us in fighting abuse and neglect with Act for Kids. So what are you waiting for? Head to [www.trekforkids.com.au](http://www.trekforkids.com.au) to join our Trek or support our Trekkers with your donations – every little bit helps!



**For more information or to donate please call 1300 228 000 or visit [www.actforkids.com.au](http://www.actforkids.com.au)**

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Act for Kids is a not-for-profit organisation providing free professional therapy and support services to prevent and treat child abuse and neglect. Established in 1988, we have helped thousands of children and families in Australia who have experienced, or are at risk of child abuse and neglect.