



Act for kids

Preventing and treating child abuse and neglect



OLIVER'S* STORY

Oliver was first removed from his mother when he was just a one year old. During his childhood he experienced frequent exposure to domestic violence, significant physical and emotional neglect and multiple placement breakdowns whilst in care.



At nine years old, Oliver was referred to Act for Kids for support with behavioural and emotional difficulties both at home and school. These challenges impacted Oliver's ability to engage in structured tasks and build meaningful, trusting relationships with children and adults around him. Oliver had significant attachment difficulties as well as the need to be in control. Our sessions with Oliver focused on supporting him to develop social and emotional regulation skills, and to understand his trauma experiences.

Oliver's Act for Kids therapist also gave him the opportunity to participate in relaxation and mindfulness activities to better manage his anger and frustration. Therapeutic games were also introduced to help him explore and gain a better understanding of himself and his world views. We worked with Oliver's carer and focused on helping them understand attachment and develop trauma sensitive parenting techniques to support Oliver at home.

Fortunately, Oliver was eager to participate in therapeutic support and soon started developing a trusting relationship with his carer. Both at home and at school, he was managing his emotions and behaviour much better. He was more settled, willing to share his thoughts and feelings, and more open to expressing and accepting affection from people around him. Oliver will go on to have a safe and happy childhood, thanks to the kind support from people like you who support Act for Kids and help us to make a difference!

**Name changed to protect identity.*





FROM THE CEO - BECOME A KIDS CRUSADER

With 2018 just a few weeks away, it won't be long before we start hearing everyone's 'new year, new me' pledges... This new year, I'd like to encourage you to make a resolution that will truly change a child's life and become a Kids' Crusader! If you haven't

already, by signing up as a regular giver, you are allowing us to give our children something they've never

had before – security. Your long-term commitment helps us to plan and distribute funds to where they are needed most. Even as little as \$10 a month can make a real difference to the lives of abused and neglected children. So please, when you're deciding what you want to achieve in 2018, we hope one of your resolutions includes changing a life, because as a Kids' Crusader you will be.

Dr Neil Carrington
CEO Act for Kids

MERCEDEZ BENZ BRISBANE RIDES FOR A CAUSE



A team of six Mercedes-Benz Brisbane Ride For A Cause bikers covered over 2,000 km in five days whilst raising much needed funds and awareness for child abuse and neglect.

The 2017 Mercedes-Benz Brisbane charity ride was led by Act for Kids Ambassador and Mercedes-Benz Brisbane Dealer Principal Shane Parkins. Parkins and his team of riders explored the beauty of Northern New South Wales and South East Queensland including stops at the Gold Coast hinterland, Mt Warning, Byron Bay, the picturesque Granite Belt, Toowoomba and Noosa.

Shane Parkins said, 'the ride is a great opportunity to support Act for Kids and the essential work they do across Australia and we were honoured to be able to visit the Toowoomba and Nambour centres to meet the men and women who provide the great services for children and young people'.



The Ride For A Cause raised over \$19,000 and Act for Kids CEO, Dr Neil Carrington, said this money will go a long way to giving children who have been abused or neglected a brighter future.

"Donated funds make a big difference; it means we can reach out to more children and families in need. Just last year Act for Kids helped 327 children from 210 families overcome trauma caused by child abuse and neglect in the Toowoomba region," Dr Carrington said.

FGX DONATION TO HELP IPSWICH AND ADELAIDE KIDS



The Future Generation Investment Company (FGX) funding that we have received to date has had an enormous impact on our services delivered in Blacktown, Adelaide and Ipswich. It has enabled us to employ more therapists to meet the increasing demand for therapy services for abused and neglected kids.

In Ipswich the funding has allowed our integrated therapy team to work with 47 children and their caregivers with a focus on developmental outcomes and social and emotional wellbeing.

Looking to the future, funding for the next financial year will allow us to continue to build our integrated therapy services and see an estimated 270 children across Adelaide and Ipswich. In Ipswich we currently have a wait list of 36 children across psychology, speech pathology and occupational therapy services. The funding will give us the capacity to see this children sooner and get them back on the road to recovery much faster.

The support of Future Generation Investment Company, their investment managers and their investors means so much to the team at Act for Kids. We cannot thank you all enough for your commitment to helping children have a brighter future, free from abuse and neglect.



MENTAL HEALTH SUPER SUMMIT RAISES \$140,000 FOR KIDS

They've done it again! Now in its third year, the must attend conference for mental health practitioners, the Mental Health Super Summit has brought in their biggest donation to date!

The online conference saw over 2,300 participants from Australia and worldwide benefit from 20 hours of cutting-edge learning, presented by experts from all over the world.

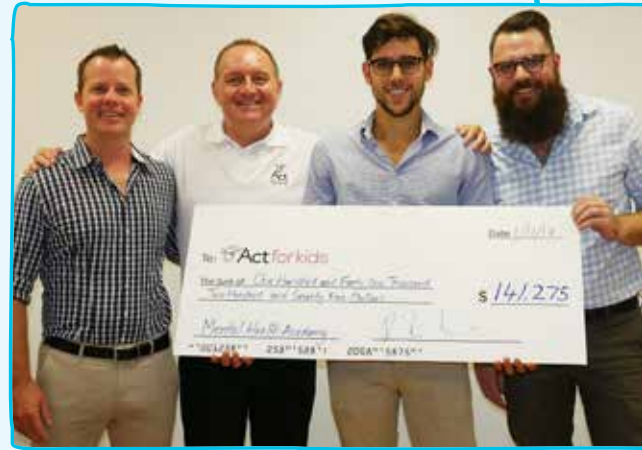
Best of all, the participants can choose what they pay to attend, from just \$50, and 100% of the proceeds go towards helping abused and neglected children receive the life changing therapy they need to overcome their trauma.

CEO of the Mental Health Academy Pedro Gondim says every child deserves unconditional love and an environment where they can grow, and thrive.

"We're 100% behind Act for Kids' vision to make sure all kids have a safe and happy childhood, free from abuse and neglect," Mr Gondim said.

This year, the Mental Health Super Summit raised \$141,275 and Act for Kids CEO Dr Neil Carrington said a donation of this size is enough to provide almost 1,500 hours of intensive therapy for kids in need.

"The impact that this will have to our centres and our children is just incredible. Fundraising is a tough gig, so to have the support of the Mental Health Academy behind us, we are just so grateful," Dr Carrington said.



ACT FOR KIDS TO OPEN A CENTRE IN ROCKY

A new hands-on support service will soon be available to vulnerable Rockhampton families to help keep their children safely together at home.

Child Safety Minister Shannon Fentiman visited Rockhampton to announce that Act for Kids will receive \$4.57 million over the next five years to set up and deliver the new practical, in-home support service in Rockhampton.

"We know the challenges that families are facing are getting tougher, which is why we're investing in direct practical support," she said.

"Some families might need help getting to doctor's appointments, school drop-offs, budgeting advice, setting routines at home or parenting courses.

"It can also include counselling, domestic violence intervention programs and family mediation. This is a hands-on, in-home practical support service to help families stay safely together.

"Act for Kids will provide families with the right support at the right time, giving them access to support before problems reach crisis point.

"These services work with families who are willing to access help so that their problems don't escalate to the point of needing contact with the child protection system."

"Act for Kids already do an amazing job in providing the support services on the Fraser Coast and in North Burnett so they bring a lot of local experience to this new service in Rockhampton."

Executive Director of Services Dr Katrina Lines said Act for Kids is proud to be part of the new in-home, practical support service to ensure local Rockhampton kids and families get extra support to overcome their challenges.

"Over the past 29 years, Act for Kids has helped thousands of kids and families in other communities in Queensland," Dr Lines said.

"The IFS program is vital for the Rockhampton region and community and is another example of the Queensland Government's commitment to stronger families and the wellbeing of all Queenslanders."



TREK FOR KIDS RAISES OVER \$50,000



Our annual Trek for Kids was another huge success as our eight trekkers took on the Great Wall of China to raise money for abused and neglected kids!

Together they raised over \$53,000, which is enough for 5,300 therapy hours to help us put more little lives back together!

Our eight inspirational trekkers trekked the Gubiekou part of the wall and Australian Survivor

contestant Kat Dumont said the views were breathtaking, the perfect backdrop to eat their peanut butter sandwiches!

"It really was magical – it was wild and unrestored, this section of the wall protected an important pass to Beijing from the northern Mongol areas. Even though more than 130 battles happened here, it retains its original bricks and stones from two separate dynasties," she said.

Act for Kids Ambassador and Channel 7 Presenter, Sammie O'Brien said her favourite part of the trip was the unknown.

"I really had no idea what to expect on this trip and it has far exceeded my expectations. I'm loving the people, the culture, the history, the sights, the flavours and the new friendships. What a wild journey it was!" Sammie said.

If you would like to take part in next year's Trek for Kids, contact fundraise@actforkids.com.au



For more information or to donate please call 1300 228 000 or visit 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.