



MEDIA RELEASE
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Ride the distance for sick kids this September!

[Starlight Children's Foundation](#) (Starlight) is encouraging Australians around the country to ride the distance for sick kids this September for its annual [Tour de Kids](#) (TdK) challenge.

Aiming to raise over \$2.5 million, funds raised from the 30-day challenge will go towards delivering happiness to over 60,000 sick kids across Australia.

Whether participants prefer to clock up their kilometres in the gym, or enjoy a weekend cycle, Tour de Kids encourages riders of all ages and abilities to hop on a bike, beat their personal cycling goals and help raise funds for Starlight's vital hospital services including [Captain Starlight](#) and [Starlight Express Rooms](#).

For 10-year-old Tommy from Melbourne who was diagnosed with T-Cell Lymphoma, Starlight's programs allowed him to be a kid and forget about this illness while enduring numerous hospitalisations and treatments.

Tommy's Mum Le-Anne said: "Even the small things Starlight does make a huge difference to sick kids like Tommy and makes them feel special. Starlight's hospital services give sick kids relief and a place to escape."

Supported by professional Australian Triathletes Craig Alexander and Emma Jeffcoat as well as road cycling pro Sarah Roy, Tour de Kids encourages all Australians to get active for a good cause.

Starlight CEO Louise Baxter said: "Every minute of every day a child is admitted to hospital. When a diagnosis of serious illness occurs, this can change the course of a child's life and their family's forever."

"Every kilometre cycled, and every dollar raised for Tour de Kids, helps Starlight continue its important work, bringing happiness to sick kids and replacing the pain and fear of treatment with fun, laughter and joy," she continued.

Tour de Kids fundraisers will be rewarded for their efforts with exclusive merchandise including an official Tour de Kids 2022 Santini cycling jersey. Plus – participants who sign up before 31 August go into the draw to win a 99 Bikes bike pack, valued at over \$3,600.

The challenge is proudly supported by Tour de Kids partners – Santini, 99 Bikes, BikeChain & Zwift

Founded in 2001, Tour de Kids is Australia's first-ever charity bike ride and has seen 15,165 cyclists raise over \$2.7 million to support more than 69,000 sick kids and their families.

Registrations are now open at tourdekids.org.au. Participants can ride the distance any time between 1 - 30 September 2022.

Simply register, start fundraising and get riding! To find out more, visit tourdekids.org.au/

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About Starlight Children's Foundation

Starlight Children's Foundation brightens the lives of seriously ill and hospitalised children and young people by replacing pain, fear and stress with fun, joy and laughter. Since its establishment in 1988, Starlight has expanded to become the broadest reaching children's charity in Australia, and was awarded the number one most reputable children's charity in Reprtrak's 2021 Charity Reputation Index. There is now a Starlight Express Room in every major children's hospital across Australia and 176 Captain Starlights nationwide. In 2021, Starlight granted over 300,000 positive Starlight experiences for children, teenagers and their families and nearly 800,000 Fun with Captain Starlight experiences. This year, Starlight will grant its 12,000th Starlight Wish.

www.starlight.org.au

