

MEDIA RELEASE

November 2021



3y/o Eden
meeting his
emergency
heroes!

GIVE THE GIFT OF HAPPINESS THIS CHRISTMAS

With the festive season fast approaching, [Starlight Children's Foundation](https://www.starlight.org.au) (Starlight) is urging Australians to help raise \$1.7 million to grant over 266 life-changing [Starlight Wishes](https://www.starlight.org.au) to sick kids this Christmas.

Right now, there are more sick kids waiting for their Starlight Wish than ever before. The need to bring joy and positive distraction to sick children has never been greater.

When sick kids' worlds are filled with hospital and treatment, a Starlight Wish is an incredible gift of happiness. Creating a lasting impact on the whole family, wishes lift a child's mood and give families a much-needed break to spend time together away from hospital.

For three-year-old Eden from Sydney who was diagnosed with Leukaemia at just 18-months-old, receiving the exciting news that he was going to meet all his emergency heroes for his Starlight Wish, gave the family something positive to look forward to.

"Eden's Starlight Wish has helped turn a really sad situation around. Eden had such an incredible time meeting his local heroes, and exploring the police cars, ambulances, and rescue helicopter. The joy on his face when he ran under the giant fire truck hose was priceless! We will always look back on this day and remember how happy he was," said Sarah Fryc, Eden's mum.

Unique as the child who chooses them, life-changing Starlight Wishes come in all shapes and sizes, and help increase sick kids' wellbeing, happiness, and optimism for the future.

While some travel wishes have been postponed during the last eighteen months, Starlight has seen an increase in requests for 'wishes at home,' including bedroom makeovers, gaming consoles, cubby houses and playrooms. Starlight has also delivered more puppy companions than ever before.

CEO of Starlight, Louise Baxter, said: "The last two years have given us all personal experience of uncertainty, social isolation and a life disrupted. For children and families facing serious illness, they face these challenges every day.

"During this special time of year, there are no less sick kids. In fact, there are more than 1000 sick kids currently waiting for their Starlight Wish - the highest number ever. The need to bring positive distraction and happiness has never been more important."

Since 1988, Starlight has granted almost 12,000 life-changing Starlight Wishes to sick kids.

To help give the gift of happiness to sick kids and teens this Christmas, visit starlight.org.au/Christmas and donate today.

- ENDS -



For more information, please contact:

Taylia Collis, Starlight PR, taylia.collis@starlight.org.au | 02 9156 3502

Ali Graves, Starlight PR, ali.graves@starlight.org.au | 03 9468 2025

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 and reputable children's charity in Australia and was awarded the AFR's Most Innovative Company (Government, Education and NFP Sector) in 2020. There is now a Starlight Express Room in nine children's hospitals across Australia and over 160 Captain Starlights nationwide. In 2020, Starlight granted over 386,944 positive Starlight experiences for children, teenagers and their families, including 126,000 Fun with Captain Starlight experiences and 326 Starlight Wishes. www.starlight.org.au

