



## MEDIA RELEASE

June 2021

### Help Starlight raise \$373,500 by June 30 to deliver happiness to sick kids

[Starlight Children's Foundation](#) (Starlight) is appealing to Australians to make a tax-deductible donation by June 30 to help deliver much needed happiness to sick kids and their families.

With the end of the financial year rapidly approaching, Starlight needs to raise \$373,500 to ensure it can deliver its vital hospital services, including [Captain Starlight](#) and the [Starlight Express Room](#), to over 9,500 sick kids and their families.

Every minute of every day a child is admitted to hospital in Australia. In that moment, they often receive a diagnosis that turns their world upside down. Suddenly, smiles disappear, and life is filled with hospital, doctors, needles and pain.

With visitations still heavily restricted, hospital life has been made even tougher. Sick kids in hospital continue to experience the heartbreak of isolation from loved ones, including seven-year-old Chase Green (pictured) who was diagnosed with a childhood cancer in the kidney which requires regular hospital visits.

Kelly Green, Chase's Mum, is thankful Starlight was there to help her son replace scary hospital memories with happy ones: "Starlight became our "family" in hospital, our support network. We can't imagine hospital without the Starlight Express Room and Captains, and we don't want to imagine it!"

Ongoing social isolation can significantly impact a child's emotional and physical development, identity, wellbeing, and self-esteem.<sup>1</sup> That's why the need for Starlight's hospital services has never been greater.

Starlight's essential hospital services help provide sick kids much needed positive distraction from the isolation and stress of treatment, through services including the [Starlight Express Room](#), [Captain Starlight](#) ward rounds, [interactive livestreams](#) and [Starlight TV](#) which broadcasts to hospital bedsides seven days a week.

Starlight CEO, Louise Baxter said: "Happiness Matters – now more than ever! With only a few weeks until the end of financial year, we're appealing to the Australian public to raise \$373,500 to help Starlight deliver much needed happiness to over 9,500 sick kids and their families."

"This last year has given us all personal experience of uncertainty, social isolation and of a life disrupted. For children and families facing serious illness, they face these challenges every day. We know what happens in childhood lasts a lifetime and the joy of being a child shouldn't disappear just because they are sick," she continued.

"We need your support this tax time to ensure Starlight can be there to deliver sick kids the happiness that is so essential to their health and wellbeing."

Anyone can make a tax-deductible donation before June 30, with all donations made on June 27 and 28 to be generously matched by Starlight's partners.

Make a tax-deductible donation today to give sick kids the happiness they need, visit [starlight.org.au/tax](http://starlight.org.au/tax).

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<sup>1</sup> (Kwan et al 2020); (Laursen et al, 2013); (Orben et al, 2020)



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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 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](http://www.starlight.org.au)



**References**

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