

MEDIA RELEASE
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Help Starlight raise \$355,500 by 30 June *Donate to keep Starlight's vital hospital services running*

With the end of financial year fast approaching, [Starlight Children's Foundation](https://www.starlight.org.au) (Starlight) is appealing to Australians to make a tax-deductible donation by 30 June to help bring much needed happiness to sick kids admitted to children's hospitals nationally.

Every minute of every day a child is admitted to hospital in Australia. What comes next for thousands of children is a diagnosis which changes their life and their family's lives forever.

During these challenging times, there are no fewer sick kids. In fact, seriously ill children are more isolated now than ever, like 7 year-old Chayse O'Bree (pictured) who has a metabolic disorder which causes his muscles to break down and can lead to cardiac arrest.

Starlight needs to raise \$355,500 by 30 June to ensure it can continue to deliver vital hospital services including [Captain Starlight](https://www.starlight.org.au), and Starlight TV, which broadcasts live to the bedsides of hospitalised kids seven days a week.

Starlight CEO Louise Baxter said: "With only a few weeks to go until the end of financial year, we're appealing to the public to raise \$355,500 to help Starlight deliver much needed happiness to sick kids.

At Starlight we know happiness matters, especially to children facing the unimaginable challenges of serious illness. It matters now because the joy of childhood shouldn't disappear just because they are sick. It also matters long term, as what happens in childhood lasts a lifetime.

The work Starlight does to bring happiness to sick kids in children's hospitals nationally is only made possible by the generosity of the community. Every donation makes a lasting difference."

There has been no reduction in the need for Starlight's hospital services during this challenging time. Starlight remains an integral part of the healthcare system and continues to work alongside its hospital partners to deliver services in any way it can to make sure sick kids don't miss out on the fun they desperately need.

All funds raised will help Starlight continue to bring joy to sick kids in hospital. Through virtual play and interactive livestreams on Starlight TV to Captain Starlight delivering Surprise Packs filled with fun craft and activities to hospital bedsides. [Starlight Express Rooms](https://www.starlight.org.au) have also recently re-opened in Brisbane, Darwin and Alice Springs.



When the current situation ends, the need for Starlight's hospital services may even be greater, with global research already reporting that children and young people who are socially isolated experience more negative emotions (such as sadness, anger and anxiety), stress and loneliness.¹

Your support now will mean Starlight can be there for sick kids - today and tomorrow.

To make a tax-deductible donation before 30 June, visit starlight.org.au/tax

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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. There is now a Starlight Express Room in every children's hospital in the country and over 180 Captain Starlights nationwide.

In 2019, Starlight granted 500 life-changing wishes with 100% of families recommending a wish experience to other families. Starlight also delivered over 610,000 positive

Starlight experiences to seriously ill children, young people and their families. www.starlight.org.au



References

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¹ Loades et al., 2020; Orgilés et al, 2020; Sprang & Silman, 2013; Urbina, 2020

