



MEDIA RELEASE
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Be a hero for sick kids this February with Starlight Super Swim

Starlight Children's Foundation (Starlight) is encouraging Australians of all ages and abilities to make a splash for sick kids this February during its annual Super Swim Challenge.

Running from 1–28 February 2026, Australia's favourite and largest virtual swim challenge aims to raise \$4.3 million to bring happiness to more than 110,000 sick kids in hospital.

Super Swim invites participants to complete a distance of their choosing, at any location – from backyard pools and local swim centres to lakes, rivers and beaches. Every lap raises funds for Starlight's vital hospital programs, including Captain Starlight and Starlight Express Rooms across Australia.

Since launching in 2019, Super Swim has raised more than \$17 million, helping brighten the lives of over 435,000 sick kids nationally.

Starlight is thrilled to welcome Speedo back as major sponsor in 2026, along with its world-class roster of Olympic, Paralympic and Commonwealth Games athletes who will help to inspire Super Swim participants across the country.

This year's challenge will be championed by Starlight ambassadors including Brooke Hanson OAM, Mick Fanning OAM, Zac Stubblety-Cook OAM, Olympic diver Sam Fricker, and Paralympians Chloe Osborn and Brenden Hall.

For Paralympic swimmer and Starlight ambassador Chloe Osborn, Super Swim is deeply personal. At age 12, Chloe was diagnosed with cancer and spent 18 months at Westmead Children's Hospital undergoing surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy. During that time, Chloe discovered the Starlight Express Room, a place where she could take a break from the stress of hospital life. She was also granted her Starlight Wish – a puppy named Phoenix.

"I first got into swimming as rehabilitation, but everything shifted when I learned about the Starlight Super Swim. Wanting to give back to the charity that supported me through the hardest chapter of my life, I signed up for the Super Swim Challenge and that decision sparked the beginning of my swimming career. It's a meaningful reminder of where my journey started, and a chance to help Starlight change the lives of other sick kids," Chloe said.

Matt Geraghty, National Partnerships Manager at Starlight said, "Being seriously ill shouldn't mean missing out on the joy of childhood – especially when we know happiness helps children cope better and improves their long-term health outcomes."

"Super Swim is a win-win. It's a wonderful way to get active, boost your mood and enjoy Australia's beautiful waterways while helping bring fun, laughter and distraction to sick kids when they need it most. Every lap you swim during Super Swim 2026 will deliver much-needed relief to tens of thousands of seriously ill children in hospital," she said.

Super Swimmers will be rewarded for their fundraising efforts with branded merchandise and other incentives from Speedo. For the first time in challenge history, participants will have the chance to score exclusive Super Swim swimming costumes and a towel hoodie courtesy of Speedo.

Be a Super Swim hero for sick kids and sign up at: superswim.org.au

superswim.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 has been consistently ranked as one of Australia's most reputable children's charities in Reprtrak's Charity Reputation Index. Starlight has also been recognised as a Great Place to Work over the years. There is a Starlight Express Room in every major children's hospital around Australia. In 2024, Starlight created over 4.4 million positive Starlight experiences for children, teenagers and their families, and Captain Starlight brought fun and laughter to 115 hospitals and 125 remote communities. Starlight also granted 491 wishes in 2024, and almost 170,000 online sessions on interactive platform Planet Starlight www.starlight.org.au

