

MEDIA RELEASE

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Give happiness to sick kids this Starlight Day

This Starlight Day, Friday 7 May, [Starlight Children's Foundation](https://www.starlight.org.au) (Starlight) needs your help to raise \$650,000 to give happiness to thousands of sick kids and their families.

As Starlight's biggest national fundraising day, Starlight Day celebrates the positive impact its vital services have on the lives of children and families experiencing hospitalisation and serious illness.

Every minute of every day a child is admitted to hospital in Australia. When sick kids' worlds are filled with hospital and treatment, the need for laughter and joy has never been greater.

Key to delivering this much-needed happiness, is Starlight's [Wishgranting](#) and in-hospital services (including [Captain Starlight](#) and the [Starlight Express Room](#)) which offer sick kids and their families respite from the stress and pain of illness and treatment.

The challenges of 2020 have meant that right now, there are more children with wish referrals than ever before, with 960 sick kids currently waiting for their Starlight Wish.

For kids like seven-year-old Anabela Kleyn with Spina Bifida and VACTERL Association (pictured), her complex medical conditions mean that she spends a lot of time in isolation, and hospital often felt like a second home.

"With her first life-saving surgery at just 48 hours old, and over 400 trips to hospital since, hospital has been a constant in our lives. Without Starlight, hospital would be scary, daunting and lonely, and Captain Starlight brings positivity, sunshine and light into the darkest of places," said Anabela's mother, Sarah Pearce.

Starlight relies on the community for support, with as little as \$39 giving one sick child access to Starlight's services.

CEO of Starlight, Louise Baxter, said: "This past year has given us all personal experiences of uncertainty, social isolation and disruption. For children and their families managing serious illness, this is something they face every day."

"Every dollar spent on Starlight's services must be raised first and foremost by the generosity of the community. That's why this Starlight Day, we ask you to dig deep so we can continue delivering the happiness and positivity that helps improve thousands of sick kids' resilience, confidence and overall wellbeing."



Anyone can make a donation via the Starlight Day website, with all donations made from 3rd May to midnight AEST Sunday 9 May generously matched by Starlight's partners Australian Gas Infrastructure Group (AGIG), NAPA Auto Parts, Repco, Sushi Jiro, Luke Hepworth and an individual supporter, of up to \$110,000.

Further to this, Starlight's valued partners Puma Energy, Cashrewards and Repco will be doing their own retail activations to help bring happiness to sick kids and their families.

To donate today, visit: www.starlightday.org.au.

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For more information, please contact:

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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

