2023 Review

including
Annual Financial Report

Starlight Children's Foundation

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A message from the Chair

In 2023 it was 35 years since Starlight was established by a group of individuals committed to brightening the lives of seriously ill and hospitalised children. These people were volunteers and formed Starlight's first National Board.

Today, Starlight's National Board and our Advisory Boards, continue to be diverse groups of highly skilled and experienced individuals who volunteer their time because they believe in the happiness of sick children and young people.

As the Chair, I am thrilled to share this update of what has been achieved in 2023, a year of continued growth.

What we do is simple yet so incredibly powerful. Starlight brightens the lives of seriously ill children and young people in the darkest of times, bringing moments of fun, laughter, and joy when and where it is needed.

Starlight's recognition as a trusted partner in creating a more positive health care experience continues to grow as clinicians consider new and innovative ways to improve paediatric health outcomes.

With our diverse and innovative fundraising campaigns our revenue also grew. However, our costs over the last few years have increased considerably and therefore we must continue to prioritise our Program support, to ensure funding is directed to the area of greatest need and impact.

The good news is our Social Return on Investment (SROI) has also increased and now Starlight creates $5.70 of community value for every $1 we invest in the paediatric health system.

In the Profit for Purpose sector the competition for talent is real. I am proud to say Starlight continues to be a great place to work recording remarkable results for team engagement and connection to purpose. Supporting this in 2023 Starlight entered year 2 of our 3-year Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan, as well as the implementation of our new Diversity Equity and Inclusion Strategy.

Our top Strategic priority always has been the safety and wellbeing of the children and young people we support. In line with this our Safeguarding Children and Young People accreditation was again achieved in 2023.

On behalf of the Starlight National Board, I would also like to thank Reg Weine who retired from the Board after more than 8 years which was in addition to his years as President of our Victorian Advisory Board. Reg also Chaired our Nomination & Remuneration Committee from 2017 where his experience and wise counsel added significant value.

To all our Starlight National Board and Advisory Board members who volunteer their time and expertise to support Starlight in so many ways thank you. I am very proud to serve on the Starlight National Board alongside you.

I hope you enjoy this review which is a celebration of working together to brighten the lives of seriously ill children and young people every day.

Thank you for your ongoing support, it is truly needed and very much appreciated.

Murray Coleman OAM
Chair
Starlight Children's Foundation Australia

...and from the CEO

Starlight's Vision is for everyone to experience a happy childhood.

Happiness in childhood is a strong determinant as to how you will perform in your education, employment and with long term healthy life behaviours. Children who are seriously ill have their ability to be happy significantly impacted and, at Starlight, we believe Happiness Matters.

In 2023 we saw an increase in the number of positive Starlight experiences created of +48% compared to the previous year.

There was an increased demand from clinicians for Starlight's Captains on Call program, where the joy of Captain Starlight is a powerful distraction from the pain of clinical treatment. And our Livewire program continued to transform the lives of teens in hospital, including in mental health units where we provide social connection and create opportunities for peer support.

Starlight's Healthier Futures Initiative played a key role in positively engaging children with healthcare in remote communities. Increasing healthcare participation rates is incredibly important for a future where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children can experience improved health outcomes and be able to flourish.

Our Starlight Express Rooms, in every Children's hospital, provide a much-needed haven for sick kids and their families to connect and have fun. To forget, even if just for a moment, where they are and why.

Planet Starlight enables sick kids to connect virtually with Captain Starlight for fun, laughter and joy. This wonderful innovation is rolling out across Australia with kids able to join in anytime, anywhere.

Recognising the unimaginable challenges faced by families with a child at home palliative care, Starlight partners with Palliative Care teams creating moments of connection and joy which are unique for each child and family. Starlight Moments creates experiences to lift the spirits of these children and families.

Starlight is a great place to work, and for 15 years, we have consistently achieved team results of over 90% for engagement and alignment. While every team member is responsible for this, I would like to take a moment to thank Susan Henry, our Head of People & Culture, who left Starlight after 22 years. During her time Susan supported a culture where we learn, grow, lead and innovate. On behalf of the Starlight Team, I thank Susan for her valuable contribution to Starlight. We were very lucky to have Susan as part of our Executive team.

Volunteering has always been an important part of Starlight's DNA. However, volunteering was impacted by Covid, and we are now starting to rebuild this important and highly valuable asset.

All we do at Starlight is supported by our fundraising and in 2023 we experienced growth of +22.5% versus 2022. This is an exceptional result and would not be possible donors, community supporters and corporate partners inspired by our impact.

It seems the more we do the more we need to do as clinicians consider new and innovative ways the power of positive psychology can impact health outcomes.

We thank all who have supported Starlight in so many ways in 2023.

Thank you for believing happiness in childhood truly matters.

Louise Baxter

Louise Baxter
Chief Executive Officer
Starlight Children's Foundation Australia

Starlight's Vision is a future where *everyone* experiences a *happy childhood*

Starlight's Mission is to *brighten the lives* of seriously ill & hospitalised children & young people

Why?... because happiness matters

What happens in childhood lasts a lifetime. Early experiences affect every aspect of development and we know that a happy childhood makes the world of difference to lifelong psychological well-being, sense of self, social connections and healthy behaviours.

What we do isn't just a "nice to have" – it's a fundamental right that kids can be kids and teens can be teens, even when they are facing the unimaginable challenges of serious illness.

That's why Starlight is an integral part of care delivered in the paediatric healthcare system...because happiness matters.

Planet Starlight National Launch

Starlight's newest program was launched, helping to bring Captain Starlight to kids across Australia. The award-winning Planet Starlight is a live and interactive platform that connects kids via a smart phone with all the fun of Captain Starlight – whether they are in a regional hospital, isolated to their ward in a children's hospital or recovering at home. Planet Starlight positively disrupted the hospital experience of kids in 47 hospitals across Australia, and we are also receiving great feedback from health professionals:

"Our ward would like to thank Starlight for the amazing work...I personally used it the other day with great success doing a burns dressing and this aided in not requiring pharmacological intervention to perform the procedure."

Starlight's Programs Overview

In the following areas Starlight has developed a range of Programs which meet the growing needs of seriously ill and hospitalised children and young people, and these underpin our Theory of Impact.

TRANSFORM

A children's health care system which provides for the total care needs of children, helping to protect and develop their mental, emotional and social well-being and supports their participation.

- Starlight Wishgranting
- Rocket Rounds
- Captains on Call
- Healthier Futures
- Livewire
- Starlight Moments

CONNECT

Bringing kids, teens and families together to overcome the social isolation of serious illness so they can enjoy social connections and a sense of belonging.

- Starlight Express Room
- Starlight TV
- Planet Starlight
- Starlight Connection
- Livewire online

ENTERTAIN

Creating moments of positive disruption which help to replace pain and boredom with joy and laughter.

- Fun with Captain Starlight

TRANSFORM

A **Starlight Wish** creates unique, life changing experiences for sick kids and teens. Whether it's a much longed-for puppy or to meet a favourite sports star, a Starlight Wish gives the child or young person and their family something to look forward to and memories to last forever.

Captain Starlight is a superhero who flies from Planet Starlight to Earth everyday to brighten the lives of sick kids and their families. Everyday their earth mission sees them on **Rocket Rounds**, creating much needed positive disruption for kids on the wards, in outpatient clinics and emergency departments of children's hospitals across Australia. When kids need extra support during treatment **Captains on Call** are there to work closely with health professionals to reduce stress, anxiety, and pain.

Through Starlight's **Healthier Futures Initiative** Captain Starlight visits remote communities, working alongside health professionals to positively transform the health care experience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kids.

Teenagers don't miss out, with our **Livewire** program designed especially for teens in hospital and mental health units. Livewire creates experiences which helps build self esteem and social connection.

For families caring for a child receiving palliative care at home, **Starlight Moments** is there for much needed moments of family connection and joy, and to help create precious memories.

CONNECT

A visit to the **Starlight Express Room** is a must in every children's hospital in Australia, providing a space for fun, laughter and social connection. Everyday Captain Starlight broadcasts live **Starlight TV** shows throughout the hospital so kids can join in the fun from their ward.

Planet Starlight provides kids in any hospital with easy online access to live shows, a chance to interact with Captain Starlight, and lots of other fun content. Captain Starlight also regularly lands in regional hospitals, visiting kids wards during **Starlight Connection** visits.

Livewire is also there for teens when they are at home, with **Livewire Online** providing a safe space for them to connect with others who are also navigating life with serious illness.

ENTERTAIN

Fun with Captain Starlight hosts fun livestreams and great kid friendly content on all the major social media apps, making the fun and laughter created by Captain Starlight available to kids everywhere.

A Timeline of Starlight Programs

1988
Starlight Australia established

1989
First Starlight Wish granted to a young boy with cancer who wished for a computer

1991
First Starlight Express Room opened at Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children in Camperdown, NSW

1992
Captain Starlight lands on Planet Earth for the first time

1996
Starlight Express Room opened at The Children's Hospital at Westmead, NSW

1997
Starlight Express Rooms opened at:
The Royal Children's Hospital, Vic
Sydney Children's Hospital, NSW
Princess Margaret Hospital, WA

1999
Starlight Connection launched, with the first Starlight Express Van in NSW

2001
Starlight Express Room opened at Mater Children's Hospital, Qld

2004
Starlight Express Room opened at John Hunter Hospital, NSW
Starlight Connection space opened at Monash Medical Centre, Vic

2006
Starlight's Healthier Futures Initiative commences in Northern Territory

2006
Captain Starlight launched in ACT
Captain Starlight launched in South Australia
Livewire In-Hospital commences at Princess Margaret Hospital for Children, WA

2007
Starlight Connection space opened at The Centenary Hospital for Women and Children, ACT

2009
Livewire Online launched

2011
New Starlight Express Room opened at Women's and Children's Hospital, SA and The Royal Children's Hospital, Vic

2012
Livewire In-Hospital launched at:
The Royal Children's Hospital, Vic,
Sydney Children's Hospital, NSW
The Children's Hospital at Westmead, NSW

AS OF MAY 2024

2013

Starlight Wish Week commences on the Gold Coast

Livewire In-Hospital launched at Mater Children's Hospital, Qld John Hunter Children's Hospital, NSW

2014

Starlight Express Room opened at Queensland Children's Hospital, Qld

2015

9000th Starlight Wish granted

Starlight's Healthier Futures Initiative commences in Western Australia

Launched Rocket Rounds nationally

2016

Starlight Express Room upgraded at The Children's Hospital at Westmead, NSW

Starlight Express Room opened at Royal Darwin Hospital, NT

2017

Starlight Express Room opened at Monash Children's Hospital, Vic

Launched updated Livewire Online site

10,000th Starlight Wish granted

2018

New Starlight Express Room opened at the Perth Children's Hospital

New Starlight Express Room at Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick, NSW

Starlight Connection space opened at Alice Springs Hospital, NT

Captains on Call commenced at Women's and Children's Hospital, Adelaide

2019

Starlight's Healthier Futures Initiative commences in QLD & SA

Starlight Moments launched

New Starlight Express Room at John Hunter's Children's Hospital

2020

Fun with Captain Starlight online entertainment launched

2022

Planet Starlight launched

12,000th Starlight Wish granted

2023

Refurbishment of the Starlight Connection space at The Centenary Hospital for Women and Children, ACT

2024

New Livewire Website Launched

Starlight's Performance Measures

Starlight's key performance measures are the reach and impact of our Programs on the lives of seriously ill children, young people and their families.

Our Reach 2023

1,942,695
Total Positive Experiences

187,568
Captain Starlight Rocket Rounds visits

474
Starlight Wishes granted to seriously ill children and young people

451
Starlight Wish referrals received from health professionals

38,983
Logins to Livewire Online

5,538
Experiences provided to children in remote communities

236
Trips made by Captain Starlight to remote communities

107, 126
Visits to the Starlight Express Room

125, 536
Planet Starlight Sessions

47,754
Livewire experiences created for teens in hospital

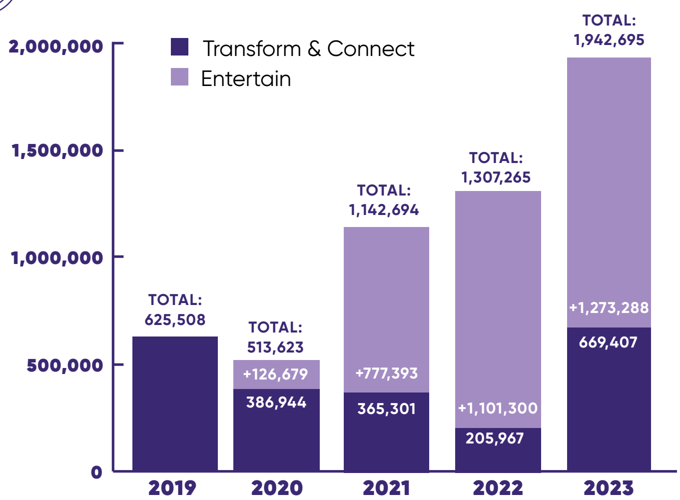
3,492
Starlight Moments experiences

Starlight Total Programs Reach

The wonderful thing to note in 2023, is our programs which Transform & Connect more than tripled their reach vs 2022. This is a result of the lifting of "in hospital" restrictions which were implemented during Covid as well as organic program growth including in Starlight's Rocket Rounds, Captain's on Call, Starlight Moments and Starlight's Healthier Futures Initiative.

Starlight's national support of seriously ill children via our Entertainment channels has continued to efficiently scale.

At year end there were 634 seriously ill children waiting for their unique Starlight Wish to be granted.



Our Impact 2023

Amplifying our impact

We are committed to understanding and improving the impact of our Starlight programs and to achieve this we invest in research to ensure what we do continues to be effective and efficient.

Our Social Return on Investment (SROI) is calculated as delivering over $5 of community value for every dollar we spend in hospital and online.

Starlight in hospital

Your gift $1 → Your impact **$5.70** community value*

Livewire.org.au

Your gift $1 → Your impact **$5.30** community value*

100%

Families would recommend a Starlight Wish experience to another family

For her Starlight wish, Cleo spent an amazing day with Bec Harding soaking up styling and fashion tips while shopping up a storm at Chadstone the Fashion Capital.

"Oh my gosh she had the most wonderful couple of days ever!!! We all did! Everyone was so lovely and absolutely made Cleo feel like a superstar!"

– Jordie, Cleo's mum

Cleo's Starlight Wish

$110M+

of total value put back into the community via Starlight's programs

79,747

Thought Leadership Reach

Thought Leadership is important to Starlight as a way of sharing and influencing the total care of children and young people everywhere.

Conference Presentations & Posters:

- AES23: International Evaluation Conference
- Australian Association for Adolescent Health Youth Health Conference
- World Congress of Positive Psychology
- Australasian Association of Theatre, Drama and Performance Studies Conference.
- Child & Adolescent Mental Health Conference
- ANZCHOG ASM (The Australian and New Zealand Children's Hameatology/Oncology Group Annual Scientific Meeting)
- Oceanic Palliative Care Conference
- SPANZA (Society for Paediatric Anaesthesia in New Zealand and Australia)

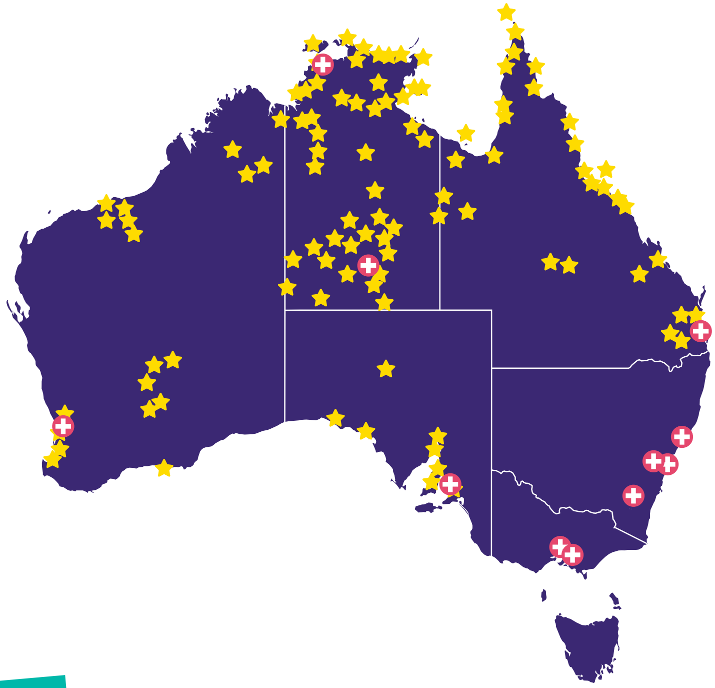
Dr Claire Treadgold, National Manager, Research & Evaluation

* The Starlight Express Room SROI was undertaken by PWC in 2010 and, using the benefits identified in the original study, the SROI was updated in 2018 by Starlight and reviewed by PWC. The update assessed the impact of program changes (e.g. changes in program reach)

** SVA Consulting SROI Analysis Research 2013

Our Impact 2023

Starlight has National reach & Local impact



- Starlight Wishes, Planet Starlight, Fun with Captain Starlight & Livewire Online
- Starlight In-Hospital
- Healthier Futures Initiative

As of May 2024

"I wanted to thank you and everybody that has been in touch with us during the whole time. Thanks for providing us those moments and reminding us to celebrate those moments to keep going. Can't thank enough for your support and kindness"

- Starlight Moments parent

"'Everyone is super supportive, it makes me feel less alone, and everyone on here is great!"

- Livewire Member

"We were a bit hesitant about joining other families on the experience, just because you don't know how other people are going to be, but it was really good for our mental health. I think being able to interact with people who are actually experiencing a similar journey is really good for... It was definitely something that was an eye-opener for both of us."

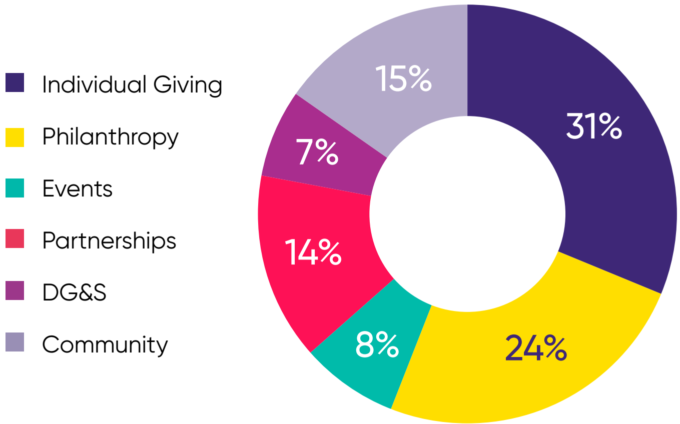
- Parent, Wish Week

"I cannot tell you how it makes me smile from the inside out watching the children's excitement when the Captains arrived! There are no words that express the difference that they are making to these children and their parents – as they benefit from seeing their children 'happy' and having fun. It certainly is reframing the hospital experience for them."

- Health Professional

In 2023, Starlight's fundraising income was $48.4m

Fundraising income increased 16% year on year with strong growth across most areas of fundraising.



In 2023, Starlight's expenses were $50.9m

Program spend increased once again in 2023. We finished the year with 634 children waiting for their Starlight Wish to be granted. This equates to over $4.7m of Program spend.

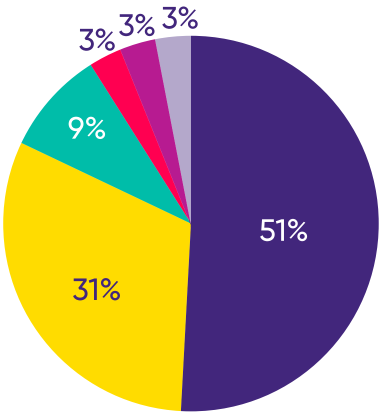
Funding our capital projects

As new children's hospitals are built or redeveloped there is a need for Starlight to build new Starlight Express Rooms in each hospital location. These Starlight Express Rooms require capital funding, which is incremental to our annual core operational expenditure and is raised through specific capital campaigns.

In 2023 work commenced on a new Starlight Connection Space in the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children. This new space provides flexibility for multiple uses including quiet zones for younger children and their families, art and creative activities, play therapy, gaming experiences, a parent's area and upgrades to the outdoor terrace.

A new Starlight Express Room at Sydney Children's Hospital Randwick will be opening in 2025. Our new Starlight Express Room will be filled with an abundance of natural light and will boast a fabulous balcony complete with outdoor kitchen and discovery play area.

Programs Spend 2023



- Starlight In-Hospital
- Wishgranting
- Livewire In-Hospital
- Livewire.org.au
- Healthier Futures Initiative
- Other - Moments & Planet Starlight

There are

634

children & young people waiting for their Starlight Wish to be granted

Donated Goods and Services

$3,314,213

total value of donated goods and services used in program delivery.

This includes:

- Toys, games and art supplies from amazing partners like LEGO Australia, Amazon Australia, Cleverpatch, EB Games/Zing Pop Culture, Mattel and Hasbro for our Starlight Express Rooms and Livewire Programs.
- Support for Starlight Wishes and Wish Week from Virgin Australia, Hamilton Island & Village Roadshow Theme Parks.
- Support for our Spark Accelerator team from The Walt Disney Company for movie subscriptions and mini movie theatres for our Starlight Express Rooms and fun Merchandise for Movie Moments.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS WHO HAVE DONATED GOODS AND SERVICES

With thanks to Channel 7 Telethon Trust

We are incredibly appreciative to Channel 7 Telethon Trust and the WA community for Telethon's sponsorship of our Captain Starlight and Livewire Programs at Perth Children's Hospital.

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY telethon 7

Our Workplace

- **377** active team members, **+17** on extended leave
  - **172** Captain Starlights
  - **45** Livewire Facilitators
- Average tenure for permanent team members **5.4 years**
- **56** New Captains in 2023
- **7** New Livewire team members

Congratulations to **Danielle White** and **Courtney Smith** who both received full scholarships to the **2023 McKinsey Rising Leaders Forum.**

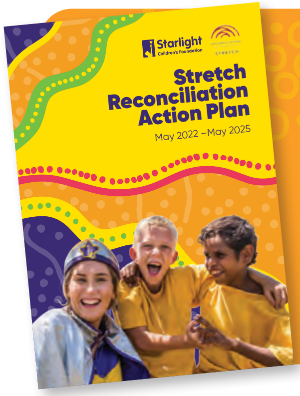
Strategic Pillars

Diversity and representation

We have a diverse team that reflects and celebrates both the families we work with and Australia more broadly

Inclusive ways of working

We have a consciously inclusive culture where all our people feel valued and that they belong



Our Stretch RAP

We are committed to Reconciliation and support partners on their Reconciliation journey.

Safeguarding Children & Young People

Safeguarding Children and Young People is our most important responsibility to ensure we continue to provide a safe, caring and nurturing environment for children and young people. Our Code of Conduct helps everyone at Starlight to be their best and deliver our programs in a child safe way.

New Workplace Initiatives

Family friendly practices.

Reproductive Health
5 days p.a. for reproductive health.

Stillbirth
Access to Starlight's Parental leave offering.

Parental leave
13 weeks for primary
6 weeks for secondary

Miscarriage
5 days miscarriage leave & Pink Elephants Resources.

Divorce & Separation
Access to compassionate leave.

Compassionate Leave
Broadened the offering of compassionate leave to include loved ones or persons of significance.

For permanent team members.

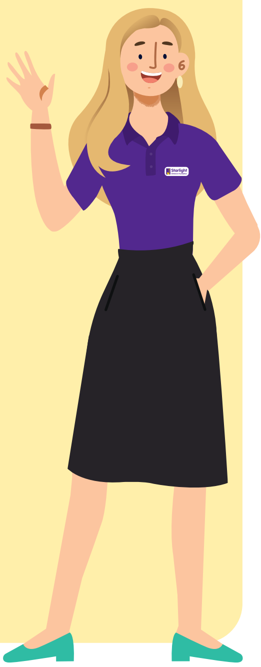
Our Team

Starlight is a great place to work!

89% of Team Members say Starlight is a great place to work!

Great Place To Work® Certified JUN 2023-JUN 2024 AUS

Best Workplaces™ for Women Great Place To Work® AUSTRALIA 2023



L&D Highlights

- Introduced opt-in People Managers Forum, offering a more tailored experience
- Mental health awareness education available to all through the Black Dog Institute
- Basecamp and The Organisation Workshop, facilitated by The Human Enterprise, focused on leadership and relationship development
- New online courses to support our RAP deliverables
- Over 100 team members participated in positive psychology learning

Starlight's Health Professionals Advisory Board

Starlight's Health Professionals Advisory Board was established to contribute specialist knowledge to support us to brighten the lives of seriously ill and hospitalised children and young people.

The Advisory Board:

- Advises Starlight on evolving opportunities and challenges around children's health care.
- Provides guidance and feedback on program strategies, plans and policies.
- Facilitates introductions and support relationships to assist program delivery and expansion.

Health Professionals Advisory Board Members:

- Emeritus Professor Les White AM (President) MBBS FRACP DSc MHA AFACHSM DUniv
- Professor Michael Brydon OAM
- Ms Sara Burrett
- Professor Trish Davidson PHD, MED, RN
- Professor Valsamma Eapen MBBS., PhD., FRCPsych., FRANZCP
- Associated Professor Joshua Francis BAppSc(MedSc) MBBS FRACP
- Professor Harriet Hiscock MB BS, FRACP, MD, FAAHMS, GAICD
- Dr Matt O'Meara MB BS, FRACP
- Professor Susan M Sawyer AM MBBS MD FRACP
- Dr Barbara Vernon BA Hons, PhD
- Professor Claire Wakefield PhD, MPH, BPsych (hons)
- Dr Simon Wood MBBS (Syd) DipPaed (NSW) FACEM

Also joining our meetings are Starlight National Board Directors, Professor Tracey O'Brien FRACP, MBChB, MBA, LLM (Health), BSc and Frank Tracey, Health Service Chief Executive, Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service.

Our Team

Linda Chong
Captain Starlight

I was born and raised in Sydney, and proudly represent the Teochew diaspora, the name of both a Chinese people and their spoken dialect. I trained as an actor at the Academy of Film, Television & Theatre, where I graduated in 2018. As a performer I have acted in plays, devised theatre and performed original poetry on various stages around Sydney.

I got drawn to the idea of being a Captain Starlight when a close friend of mine became one. She always told me that she could see me doing this, and she was absolutely right! To me, being a Captain Starlight means getting to indulge in my passion for performance and playfulness, but also fulfilling my lifelong ambition to make a positive impact in all I do. My favourite part of being a Captain Starlight is getting to use my own unique colours, perspectives and experiences to make people laugh and feel seen. I also love how a really good playlist can unite a whole room of people regardless of age, race or culture.

Brent Riley
Marketing Co-Ordinator

It's important to me that I'm contributing to something, that I'm of service to the community and giving something back. I'm in the Digital Marketing & Communications team and we have direct contact with the public through social media and the Starlight website. I also support the Starlight team by managing our new digital asset management system which I helped implement. This makes available resources for all Starlight teams to share with donors and partners. I also work to ensure consent is obtained and consent processes are followed in order to help safeguard children whose content we share.

My favourite part of my job is creating a positive experience for sick kids and supporting families. I've learnt so much about how to best support sick kids and their families. Then there are our online courses through The Greenhouse. Cultural competency was an awesome experience and really gave voice to many things I couldn't express myself to people who had questions about the history and culture of Aboriginal people in Australia. I feel really proud that Starlight offers this to the team. It also taught me a lot about my own culture I didn't know or only knew smaller aspects about.

I'm also part of our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Working Group which has been an amazing experience. Knowing that an organisation like Starlight is working towards inclusion and representation of Aboriginal people. It has been awesome to meet with and plan events such as National Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC with the group and bringing knowledge of the culture and its history to the Starlight team.

Our Team

Meg Strickland
Captain Starlight

Since joining Starlight fifteen years ago, I've worked in Sydney and Perth as a full-time Captain, a casual Captain, a part-time Captain and a Program Manager. I'm currently a happy and proud Captain's Coach for the Perth team and will shortly be moving to Darwin in this role too. I'm also a proud member of our RAP Working Group. I love our team, I love our manager and I truly love everything about the role.

There is so much I enjoy about Starlight - our focus on positive psychology, growth and development, the kids and their families, the amazingly varied nature of the role, getting to visit remote communities around WA with our Healthier Futures Initiative, and being a member of a very supportive and talented team.

The best part is that we really do make a difference to so many people. It's a job we can all be proud of, be heard in and love doing.

Tina Phan
Livewire Volunteer

I am incredibly privileged to call Starlight home for the past 15 years. I always feel so welcome and appreciated as a vollie!

I describe my role at Starlight as a "fun facilitator!" where I help to provide fun and creative distractions, so that those visiting hospital can feel like children and young people first and foremost—a medical patient or visitor, second.

I simply love working together with the Captains and Livewire Facilitators to figure out what uniquely helps a child or teen feel special and connected in the moment. It's truly magical when someone who originally presents as shy or disengaged comes to love the program and counts down until the next time we can interact with them.

Joining the Starlight family is the best thing I ever did. I always feel like I gain so much more from volunteering than I give back. Not only do I get to help brighten someone's day, but my time at Starlight has taught me more about myself and helped me grow into a leader, than any other paid job has. If you're looking for the same sort of experience, I'd say don't hesitate to join the team.

Starlight's Directors Information

Murray Coleman OAM

Chair / Non-Executive Director

Murray joined the National Board in 2014 after 2 years on the NSW Advisory Board and became Chair in August 2016.

Murray is currently with Macquarie Capital, where he is the Head of Development Projects, having joined in 2017. He was previously with Lendlease for 30 years, working in a number of senior roles across the business both in Australia and overseas. Murray's roles included Global CEO Bovis Lend Lease, Global Head of Health and Safety and Global Group Head of Operational Risk, as well as running the Australian, Asia Pacific and UK construction businesses at various times.

In 2012, Murray was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to the building and construction industry. He is also currently a Director of Earlytrade, and the Chair & Director of A.G. Coombs.

Courtenay Smith

Chair of Audit & Risk Committee / Non-Executive Director

Courtenay joined the Board in August 2019 and is Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee. In March 2021 Courtenay joined ASX 50 company Mirvac as Chief Financial Officer (CFO) following more than 20 years at Lendlease, where she held various roles including most recently CFO, Property Australia.

Courtenay has over 25 years' experience as a finance professional with management skills across the areas of strategy, governance, risk management, finance and operations and has worked in senior finance roles within the investment, property and construction sectors in Australia, Asia the United States and the United Kingdom.

Courtenay is a member of the Green Building Council of Australia Board and Audit & Risk Committee, a member of the NSW Cricket Association Board and Audit & Risk Committee, and a member of Chief Executive Women (CEW).

Courtenay is a member of the Chartered Accountants in Australia and New Zealand, holds a Bachelor of Accounting from the University of Technology Sydney and is Chair of the UTS BAcc Steering Committee.

Frank Tracey

Non-Executive Director

Frank Tracey joined the Board in May 2020 and is the Chief Executive at Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service.

Frank has more than 40 years' experience working in health systems. His strong executive management and leadership skills are supported by his clinical background in nursing and advanced qualifications in health care, management and governance. His extensive experience in health system commissioning and provision in clinical and community settings and in government and non-government roles is complemented by his interest in translational health research.

In his career Frank has focused on delivering sustainable health strategies that serve the best interests of health consumers, health professionals, the broader health system and the community.

Louise Baxter GAICD

Chief Executive Officer / Executive Director

Louise joined the Starlight Board in 2009 when she returned to Starlight as CEO. She has experience in senior marketing, business development and communication roles in the commercial and "profit for purpose" sector. Louise aspires to always being authentic and true to Starlight's single value of Shine.

Louise's focus on exceptional experiences and relationships has seen improved business metrics across all areas of Starlight. In addition Starlight has been awarded AON Hewitt Best Employer accreditation, listed in the top 20 in Australia's Great Places to Work, is the #1 as the most reputable charity brand supporting children and young people, and was acknowledged by AFR as the most innovative organisation in the Government, Education and NFP category for 2020.

Louise was acknowledged by CEO Magazine in 2016 and 2023 as Australia's NFP Executive of the Year and in 2019 Louise was listed in Pro Bono Australia's Impact 25 which recognised the 25 most influential and inspirational people in Australia's social sector. Louise is also on the board of the Stanford Australia Foundation and The Community Council for Australia

Professor Tracey O'Brien AM

Non-Executive Director

Professor Tracey O'Brien joined the Board in 2019. Tracey is the NSW Chief Cancer Officer and CEO of Cancer Institute NSW.

An internationally respected clinician-researcher, Tracey is a paediatric cancer specialist with over 20 years of working in public hospitals to improve outcomes for children, adolescents and young people with cancer.

Tracey is a strategic, collaborative, and inclusive leader with numerous high-profile leadership positions in cancer control, research and policy. Prior to her appointment as the NSW Chief Cancer Officer in 2022, Tracey was the Director of the Kids Cancer Centre at Sydney Children's Hospital and the Head of the Bone Marrow Transplant Program. Tracey is a conjoint Professor with the Discipline of Paediatrics, Faculty of Health & Medicine at UNSW. In addition to her medical training, Professor O'Brien has an MBA and Master of Law and has an Honorary Professorial appointment in the School of Computing, Faculty of Science and Engineering at Macquarie University.

Helen Fazzino

Non-Executive Director

Helen joined the Board in 2024 after 6 years as President of the Victorian Advisory Board and member since 2015. Helen is a Senior Partner of PwC Australia in Melbourne. Helen served on the Australia's Firm's Executive Board as Managing Partner, People, Partnership & Culture from 2012 through 2020. Helen is also a member of the Board of Governors for Ivanhoe Grammar School.

In addition to her Executive Board role, Helen has held numerous business and market leadership positions across the PwC through her 25+ years as a Partner. Helen has practiced as a Global tax partner specialising in international tax and transfer pricing since 1996 advising some of the world's largest Multinational corporations in the complex area of international taxation having particular regard to issues critical to the integrity of Australia's taxation system, the OECD guidance on international tax and the importance of her client's aspirations as they relate to corporate responsibility, governance and reputation. As one of Australia and Asia's pre-eminent Global Tax practitioners, Helen has provided critical input to the Australian Governments private and public consultation processes for key aspects relating to the taxation of multi-nationals.

Helen has a Bachelor of Economics (Honours) from La Trobe University and is a Fellow of both the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia, and the Taxation Institute of Australia.

Lucinda Gemmell

Chair of Remuneration & Nomination Committee / Non-Executive Director

Lucinda Gemmell joined the Board in 2019 and is Chair of the Remuneration & Nomination Committee. In 2023 Lucinda was appointed Chief People & Culture Officer at Seven West Media. Prior to this Lucinda held CPCO roles at Airservices Australia and Virgin Australia Group. Lucinda has more than 25 years of progressive HR and commercial leadership experience in Australia and Asia Pacific including Executive roles with Woolworths Ltd, Diageo Asia Pacific and Fairfax Media.

Lucinda holds a Master of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology. Lucinda was awarded 2014 Australian HR Director of the Year at the Australian HR Awards. In 2020, Lucinda was named in Human Resources Director Global 100 List.

Katrina Rathie FAICD

Non-Executive Director

Katrina is an independent Non-Executive Director and mother of three sons. She has been a Starlight Board member since 2011 and serves on Starlight's Nominations & Remuneration Committee. She is Chair of Bubs Australia Limited (ASX:BUB) and a Non-Executive Director of Special Broadcasting Service (SBS). She had a distinguished 35 year legal career at global law firm King & Wood Mallesons, most recently as Partner in Charge, Sydney.

Katrina is a member of Chief Executive Women and a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Katrina was named the Winner of the Board & Management category in the prestigious AFR 100 Women of Influence Awards in 2019.

Katrina is a popular public speaker, an advocate for diversity and inclusion and serves on the Advisory Board of Media Diversity Australia and is NSW Patron of the Asian Australian Lawyers Association. She holds a Bachelor of Commerce/Law degree from UNSW Sydney.

Tanya Gilerman

Non-Executive Director

Tanya joined the Board in 2024 and is the Chief Risk Officer for KPMG Australia. She is responsible for risk and regulatory matters as well as broader commercial and business risks associated with KPMG's strategy. Tanya has extensive experience in auditing of ASX listed companies, funds management businesses and working with Boards and senior management during times of change and restructuring. Tanya is passionate about supporting diversity and inclusion and encourages senior women to develop and enhance their opportunities by leveraging themselves, their teams, and the business. Tanya is a member of Chief Executive Women.

Drew Pearson

Non-Executive Director

Drew joined the National Board in 2024. Drew is the Managing Partner, Sydney at Herbert Smith Freehills. He is an Employment & Industrial Relations lawyer and has worked with Herbert Smith Freehills since 2006.

Drew works with commercial, government and not for profit clients across a range of industries, sectors and geographies. Drew's wealth of varied experience allows him to bring innovative ideas to the table. This is particularly helpful for strategic projects including acquisitions, restructuring, collective bargaining and organisational improvement and change.

Drew is a member of the Law Society of New South Wales and holds a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws from the University of Notre Dame Australia. He sits on the Executive Advisory Board of Pride in Diversity and the Ethics Committee of the Law Society of New South Wales.

Tanya Denning Orman

Non-Executive Director

Tanya joined the National Board in 2024. Tanya Denning Orman, a proud Birri and Guugu Yimidhirr woman from Central and North Queensland, has led National Indigenous Television since it joined SBS in 2012, and became SBS's first Director of Indigenous Content in 2020.

Tanya manages NITV as a channel dedicated to Indigenous voices, overseeing its diverse and innovative multiplatform content. She also plays an instrumental role in the development and delivery of First Nations storytelling across the SBS network. With more than 20 years' experience working in media, Tanya has previously held positions as a journalist and producer for ABC and SBS, and a number of different roles at NITV since its inception in 2007.

As a champion for strong Indigenous media, she has also held a number of industry Board positions including with Media Diversity Australia, First Nations Media Australia, and currently with the World Indigenous Television Broadcast Network.

Retiring Board Members

Reg Weine

Chair of Remuneration & Nomination Committee / Non-Executive Director

Reg joined the National Board in March 2016 and he was previously the president of Starlight's Victorian Advisory Board from 2013-2016. Reg is Chairman of Maggie Beer Holdings (ASX:MBH), Chairman of The Pastoral Pork Company, Chairman of Apple & Pear Australia Limited (APAL) and CEO & MD of Bub's (ASX:BUB).

Reg was the Managing Director of SPC Ardmona 2015–2019 and CEO of Bulla Dairy Foods 2010-2015. Reg has a Bachelor of Business from Monash University, is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and is a Certified Practicing Marketer with the Australian Marketing Institute.
Reg retired from the National Board in August 2023.

Annual Financial Report

Starlight Children's Foundation Australia

Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2023

Directors' Report

The Directors submit their report for the twelve months ended 31 December 2023.

Directors

The Directors of Starlight Children's Foundation Australia ("Starlight") during the financial year and until the date of this report are as follows. Directors were in office for this entire year unless otherwise stated.

Mr Murray Coleman OAM	Non-Executive Director / Chair
Ms Louise Baxter	Chief Executive, Executive Director
Ms Katrina Rathie	Non-Executive Director
Mr Reg Weine	Non-Executive Director (resigned 29 August 2023)
Ms Tracey O'Brien	Non-Executive Director
Ms Courtenay Smith	Non-Executive Director
Ms Lucinda Gemmell	Non-Executive Director
Mr Frank Tracey	Non-Executive Director
Ms Tanya Denning Orman	Non-Executive Director (appointed 27 February 2024)
Ms Tanya Gilerman	Non-Executive Director (appointed 27 February 2024)
Ms Helen Fazzino	Non-Executive Director (appointed 27 February 2024)
Mr Drew Pearson	Non-Executive Director (appointed 11 April 2024)

Details of directors' qualifications, experience and special responsibilities can be found on pages 18 to 21 of this report.

Directors' Meetings

Details of the meetings of the Board of Directors and its Committees held during the year are given below, including attendance at these meetings. The number of meetings the director was eligible to attend is indicated in the held column.

	Board of Directors		Committee Meetings			
			Audit & Risk		Nominations & Remuneration	
	Held	Attended	Held	Attended	Held	Attended
Mr Murray Coleman OAM	6	6	4	4		
Ms Louise Baxter	6	6	4	4	2	2
Ms Lucinda Gemmell	6	6			2	2
Professor Tracey O'Brien	6	3				
Ms Katrina Rathie	6	5			2	1
Ms Courtenay Smith	6	4	4	4		
Mr Frank Tracey	6	4				
Mr Reg Weine	6	4			2	1

Starlight's Mission and Strategy

Starlight's Mission and Strategy are outlined on page 4 of this report.

Annual Financial Report

Director's Report (continued)

Principal Activities

Starlight provides a range of programs to transform the experience of hospitalisation and treatment for seriously ill children, young people and their families and is the only children's charity with a permanent physical presence in every major paediatric hospital in Australia. Starlight has the broadest reach of any organisation supporting children and young people with all illnesses and injury equitably across Australia both in hospital and in the community.

A detailed review of the programs Starlight provides are outlined on pages 5 and 6 of this report.

Review and Results of Operations

Starlight's net operating deficit for the financial year was $2,453,695 (2022: surplus $3,433,372). Gross income for the financial year was $48,429,109 (2022: $41,681,314) which represents a year-on-year increase of 16%. Our continued investment in sustainable donor acquisition saw income from Shining Stars continue to grow 4% in 2023, but other fundraising channels such as community (up 17%) and philanthropy (up 70%) contributed significantly to the outstanding income result for 2023.

The total net deficit for the year was $909,665 (2023: surplus $2,557,279).

Total Program Spend

In 2023 total Program spend was $28,757,459 which is an increase of 47% on 2022. This reflects the lifting of all COVID restrictions during 2023 and the reopening of all our programs, as well as increasing costs due to inflationary pressures. Program spend in 2023 includes $550,000 in relation to Starlight Express Room construction costs (2022: $8,930).

Starlight's Performance Measures

Starlight's key performance measures are outlined on pages 9 to 15 of this report.

Environmental Regulation

Starlight's operations are not subject to any significant environmental regulations under either Commonwealth or State legislation.

Directors and Other Officers' Benefits

No Non-Executive Director has received, or became entitled to receive during or since the financial year any financial benefit from Starlight, either by way of salary, or by reason of a contract made by Starlight or a related party corporate with a director or a firm, in which the director has a substantial financial interest other than as noted in the accounts.

Indemnification and Insurance of Directors and Officers

Starlight has a Management Liability Insurance policy in place indemnifying Directors and Officers against personal liability in the course of their duties. Starlight has not otherwise, during or since the financial year indemnified, or agreed to indemnify, an officer against a liability incurred.
The insurance policy prohibits the disclosure of the amount and nature of the insurance cover and the amount of the premium paid.

Annual Financial Report

Director's Report (continued)

Members Guarantee

In accordance with the company's constitution, each member is liable to contribute $100 in the event that the company is wound up. As at 31 December 2023 the number of members was 7 (31 December 2022: 8)

Registered office and principal place of business

Level 11
1 Pacific Highway
North Sydney 2060
NSW Australia

Auditor's Independence

The Directors received an Independence Declaration from our auditors Ernst & Young. This declaration is included in the financial report following the Auditor's Report.

Non-audit Services

Ernst & Young received or are due to receive $67,500 for the provision of non-audit services. Refer to Note 18 for further information. The Board is satisfied that the provision of non-audit services during the year by Ernst & Young is compatible with, and did not compromise, the auditor independence requirements of the Australian Charities and Not for profits Commission Act 2012 for the following reasons:

1. all non-audit services provided by Ernst & Young were reviewed and approved to ensure they do not impact the integrity and objectivity of the auditor; and
2. the nature and scope of non-audit services provided means that auditor independence was not compromised.

Indemnification of Auditors

To the extent permitted by law, Starlight has agreed to indemnify its auditors, Ernst & Young Australia, as part of the terms of its audit engagement agreement against claims by third parties arising from the audit (for an unspecified amount). No payment has been made to indemnify Ernst & Young Australia during or since the financial year.

Signed on behalf of the Directors.

Murray Coleman OAM
Chair

Starlight Children's Foundation Australia
25 June 2024

Statement of Income & Expenditure

Starlight Children's Foundation Australia
Statement of Income and Expenditure
For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	2023 $	2022 $
Income from Ordinary Activities			
Fundraising Income	4	48,429,109	41,681,314
Gross Income		48,429,109	41,681,314
Costs of Fundraising		(19,528,809)	(16,840,018)
Net Income		28,900,300	24,841,296
Expenditure			
Program Costs	5	(28,757,459)	(19,546,705)
Finance Costs	5	(714,028)	(72,972)
Other Operating Costs		(1,882,508)	(1,788,247)
Total Expenditure		(31,353,995)	(21,407,924)
Net Operating (Deficit)/ Surplus		(2,453,695)	3,433,372
Other Income/ (Loss)	4	1,544,030	(876,093)
Total Net Surplus/ (Deficit)		(909,665)	2,557,279
Other Comprehensive Income		-	-
Total Comprehensive (Loss)/ Income		(909,665)	2,557,279

Statement of Financial Position

Starlight Children's Foundation Australia
Statement of Financial Position
As at 31 December 2023

	Note	2023 $	2022 $
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	7	6,913,013	8,138,859
Trade and Other Receivables	8	2,123,352	1,842,385
Investments	9	13,369,930	9,113,013
Total current assets		22,406,295	19,094,257
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant & Equipment	10	1,015,979	628,330
Right-of-use Assets	11	802,878	2,334,248
Intangible Assets	12	143,296	227,315
Total Non-Current Assets		1,962,153	3,189,893
Total Assets		24,368,448	22,284,150
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables	13	1,511,572	896,084
Lease Liabilities	11	244,218	668,726
Provisions	14	5,455,824	1,478,079
Total Current Liabilities		7,211,614	3,042,889
Non-Current Liabilities			
Lease Liabilities	11	647,672	1,871,073
Provisions	14	518,977	470,337
Total Non-Current Liabilities		1,166,649	2,341,410
Total Liabilities		8,378,263	5,384,299
Net Assets		15,990,185	16,899,850
Equity			
Retained Surplus		739,196	7,194,996
Endowment Reserve		13,330,048	9,543,913
Reserve for Tagged Funds		1,920,941	160,941
Total Equity		15,990,185	16,899,850

Statement of Changes in Equity

Starlight Children's Foundation Australia
Statement of Changes in Equity
As at 31 December 2023

	2023 $	2022 $
Retained Surplus		
Retained surplus at the start of the year	7,194,996	6,221,206
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	(909,665)	2,557,279
Net transfer (to)/from endowment reserve	(3,786,135)	(1,482,833)
Net transfer (to)/from reserve for tagged funds	(1,760,000)	(100,656)
Retained Surplus at year end	739,196	7,194,996
Endowment Reserve		
Endowment reserve at the start of the year	9,543,913	8,061,080
Net transfer from/(to) retained surplus	3,786,135	1,482,833
Endowment Reserve at year end	13,330,048	9,543,913
Reserve for Tagged Funds		
Reserve for tagged funds at the start of the year	160,941	60,285
Net transfer from/(to) retained surplus	1,760,000	100,656
Reserve for Tagged Funds at year end	1,920,941	160,941

Endowment funds are accumulated to ensure Starlight: (i) has the ability to continue program delivery through times of economic uncertainty; and (ii) is able to invest in growth and infrastructure upgrades without impacting program delivery.

Tagged cash balances reflect funds received that have been "tagged" to a particular purpose that has not yet occurred. To honour the purpose for which donors have agreed to commit funds, we have ensured that funds specifically tagged to future projects are not used to fund general ongoing expenditure.

Cash Flow Statement

Starlight Children's Foundation Australia
Cash Flow Statement
For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	2023 $	2022 $
Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Receipts from customers, donors and grants		45,651,363	38,666,687
Payments to suppliers and employees		(42,113,261)	(35,202,026)
Interest received		-	-
Interest paid		(96,878)	(105,923)
Net cash flows (used in)/from operating activities		3,441,224	3,358,738
Cash Flows from Investing Activities			
Purchase of property, plant & equipment		(810,652)	(423,056)
Purchase of intangibles		(41,646)	(202,323)
Purchase of investments		(3,273,372)	(2,098,422)
Proceeds from sale of investments		-	255,980
Net cash flows (used in)/ from investing activities		(4,125,670)	(2,467,821)
Cash flows used in Financing Activities			
Payment of lease liabilities		(541,400)	(559,405)
Net cash flows (used in)/ from financing activities		(541,400)	(559,405)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		(1,225,846)	331,512
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		8,138,859	7,807,347
Cash and cash equivalents at year end	7	6,913,013	8,138,859

Notes to the Financial Statements

Starlight Children's Foundation Australia
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

1. Corporate Information

The Financial Report of Starlight Children's Foundation Australia ("Starlight") for the year ended 31 December 2023 was adopted at a meeting of the directors on 13 May 2024.

Starlight is an unlisted public entity limited by guarantee and was incorporated in Australia. The nature of the operations and principal activities of Starlight are described in the Directors' Report.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of preparation

This financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012, Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosure Requirements and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board. The financial report has also been prepared on an historical cost basis, except for the financial assets at fair value through profit or loss, which have been measured at fair value.

Starlight is a not-for-profit unlisted public entity. Starlight has adopted AASB 1060 General Purpose Financial Statements – Simplified Disclosures for Not-for-Profit Tier 2 Entities. Other than the change in disclosure requirements, the adoption of AASB 1060 has no significant impact on the consolidated financial statements because Starlight previous financial statements complied with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements.

In the current year, Starlight has adopted all the new and revised Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that are relevant to its operations and effective for the current annual reporting period.

The financial report is presented in Australian dollars.

(b) Income recognition

Fundraising income and cash donations

Revenue is recognised at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable net of any charge for goods and services tax (GST). Revenue is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the entity and the amount of the revenue can be reliably measured.

Donations are generally recognised when received, but significant confirmed donations are accrued when Starlight is entitled to the donation and the amount can be measured reliably.

Government Grants

A contract liability is recognised when the grant income is received and subsequently released to the profit and loss as income to match costs incurred in delivering the programs funded.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Donated goods and services

Donated goods and services are an important and valued supply. In respect of services, only those that would otherwise have been purchased and paid for are recognised as income and expense in the financial statements. In respect of goods, only those that are utilised in the business are recognised as income and expense. Goods that are donated for conversion into cash (e.g. auction items) are recognised as income and valued at the amount of cash raised through their sale and therefore no expense is recognised.

Interest and Dividends

Interest, or dividend, revenue is recognised upon control of the right to receive the interest, or dividend payment.

(c) Expenses

All expenses are recognised on an accruals basis and have been classified under headings that reflect the nature of the activity. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to a particular category they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the estimated use of resources. This estimate is either determined by management knowledge and experience or is based on a proportion of headcount in each department.

Costs of fundraising comprise those expenses incurred in running all fundraising activities and events, direct marketing campaigns, liaising with corporate partners and soliciting voluntary donations. Costs incurred in recruiting new supporters for our Shining Stars regular donors are expensed in full when a donor has registered to make future donations.

Programs costs are those incurred in delivering services to seriously ill and hospitalised children and their families, including wishes, family activities, all hospital and outreach based activities and the provision of the Livewire website. Program spend also includes Starlight Express Room construction costs.

Other Operating costs are incurred in managing and accounting for the various activities, providing and maintaining business systems and ensuring compliance with all relevant legal and statutory requirements.

(d) Leases

At inception of a contract, Starlight assesses whether a contract is, or contains, a lease based on whether the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration. For leases identified, Starlight recognises a right-of-use asset and a lease liability at the lease commencement date.

(i) Right-of-use assets

The right-of-use asset is initially measured at cost, which comprises the initial amount of the lease liability adjusted for any lease payments made at or before the commencement date, plus any initial direct costs incurred less any lease incentives received.

The right-of-use asset is subsequently depreciated using the straight-line method from the commencement date to the earlier of the end of the useful life of the right-of-use asset or the lease term. The lease term includes periods covered by an option to extend if the Company is reasonably certain to exercise that option.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

In addition, the right-of-use asset is periodically reduced by impairment losses, if any, and adjusted for certain remeasurements of the lease liability.

(ii) Lease liability

The lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the lease payments that are not paid as at the commencement date, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease or, if that rate cannot be readily determined. Starlight uses its incremental borrowing rate as the discount rate.

The lease liability is remeasured when there is a change in future lease payments arising from a change in an index or rate, or if Starlight changes its assessment of whether it will exercise an extension option. When the lease liability is remeasured in this way, a corresponding adjustment is made to the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset, or is recorded in profit or loss if the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset has been reduced to zero.

Lease payments are allocated between principal and finance cost. The finance cost is charged to the profit and loss over the lease period so as to produce a constant periodic rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability for each period.

Payments associated with short-term leases that have a lease term of 12 months or less and leases of low-value assets are recognised as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

(e) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and term deposits in the balance sheet comprise cash at bank and in hand and term deposits. For the purpose of the Cash Flow Statement, cash and cash equivalents consist of cash and cash equivalents as defined above, net of outstanding bank overdrafts.

(f) Trade and other receivables

Trade receivables are recognised and carried at original invoice amount less an allowance for any uncollectable amounts. An allowance for doubtful debts is made when there is objective evidence that Starlight will not be able to collect the debts. Bad debts are written off when identified.

Other debtors include donations and third party fundraising which are accrued when Starlight is entitled to the funds and the amount can be measured reliably.

For Trade and other receivables, Starlight has applied AASB 9's simplified approach to calculating expected credit losses based on lifetime expected credit losses. Starlight has established a provision matrix that is based on it's historical credit loss experience, adjusted for forward-looking factors specific to the debtors and the economic environment.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

(g) Investments

Classification and measurement

Starlight has assessed the entire investment portfolio to be part of a single business model as the assets are managed by Starlight with a consistent objective. Hence the same classification is applied across all investments held. The majority of the investments comprise of assets in managed funds, from which cash flows are not solely payments of principal and interest. Accordingly, under AASB 9, Starlight has designated all investments to be valued at fair value through profit and loss.

(h) De-recognition of financial assets and financial liabilities

(i) Financial assets

A financial asset (or, where applicable, a part of a financial asset or part of a group of similar assets) is derecognised when:

- the rights to receive cash flows from the asset have expired.
- the right to receive cash flows from the asset is retained, but an obligation to pay them in full without material delay to a third party under a 'pass-through' arrangement is assumed; or
- the right to receive cash flows from the asset has been transferred and either (a) substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset have been transferred; or (b) all the risks and rewards of the assets have neither been transferred nor retained substantially, but control of the asset has transferred.

(ii) Financial liabilities

A financial liability is derecognised when the obligation under the liability is discharged or cancelled or expires.

(i) Taxes

Income Tax

Starlight is a registered charity and is exempt from income tax in accordance with Division 50 section 50-5 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997. It is also exempt from capital gains taxes and State payroll taxes.

Goods and Services Tax

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where Starlight has chosen to apply the provisions contained in section 40-160 of the GST Act, where no entitlement may be claimed on input tax credits for any acquisitions in relation to the event and GST is not required to be charged on any supplies made.

Notes to the Financial Statements

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

(j) Property, plant and equipment

Acquisition

Items of property, plant and equipment are recorded at cost. Donated goods are recorded at market value when Starlight plans to retain the asset for its own use.

Depreciation

Depreciation is determined using the straight-line method of calculation. It is calculated on the cost of property, plant and equipment including construction costs and improvements to leasehold property so as to write off the asset over its estimated useful life.

Depreciation rates of property, plant and equipment for each class of asset are as follows:

• Leasehold Improvements	12.5%
• Office Furniture and Equipment	25 to 33%
• Furniture and Equipment – Starlight Express Rooms	20 to 33%
• Starlight Express Van and Equipment	20 to 33%

Depreciation expense is recognised in the income and expenditure statement in the expense category consistent with the function of the asset.

De-recognition and disposal

An item of property, plant and equipment is de-recognised upon disposal or when no future economic benefits are expected from its use.

Any gain or loss arising from de-recognition of an asset, calculated as the difference between the net disposal proceeds and the carrying amount of the asset, is included in the profit and loss in the year the asset is de-recognised.

(k) Intangibles

Intangible assets are initially measured at cost. Following initial recognition, intangible assets are carried at cost less any accumulated amortisation and any accumulated impairment losses.

The useful lives of intangible assets are assessed to be either finite or indefinite. The amortisation period for an intangible asset with a finite useful life is reviewed at least at each financial year-end. Changes in the expected useful life or the expected pattern of consumption of future economic benefits embodied in the asset are accounted for prospectively by changing the amortisation period or method, as appropriate, which is a change in accounting estimate. The amortisation expense on intangible assets with finite lives is recognised as an expense in the category consistent with the function of the asset.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

(k) Intangibles (continued)

A summary of the policies applied to Starlight's intangible assets is as follows:

Software and systems
Useful lives
3 years
Amortisation method used
Amortised over the period of expected future economic benefit on a straight-line basis
Internally generated or acquired
Where the cost relates to software development and meets Starlight's recognition criteria
Impairment testing
When indicators of impairment exist or when annual impairment testing for assets is required

Gains or losses arising from de-recognition of an intangible asset are measured as the difference between the net disposal proceeds and the carrying amount of the asset and are recognised in profit or loss when the asset is de-recognised.

(l) Impairment of assets

Starlight assesses at each reporting date whether there is an indication that an asset may be impaired. If any such indication exists, or annually in the case of any intangible assets with indefinite useful lives or acquired goodwill, Starlight makes an estimate of the asset's recoverable amount. An asset's recoverable amount is the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and its value in use and is determined for an individual asset.

When the carrying amount of an asset exceeds it recoverable amount, the asset is impaired and its carrying value is written down to its recoverable amount. As a not-for-profit entity, the value in use is calculated as the depreciated replacement cost of the asset where the entity would, if deprived of the asset, replace its remaining future economic benefits.

Impairment losses relating to continuing operations are recognised in those expense categories consistent with the function of the impaired asset unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation decrease.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

(m) Employee benefits

(i) Wages, salaries and annual leave

Liabilities for wages and salaries, including non-monetary benefits if appropriate, and annual leave are recognised in the provision for employee benefits in respect of employees' services up to the reporting date. They are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled.

(ii) Long service leave

The liability for long service leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits and measured as the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date. Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the reporting date on corporate bonds with terms that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

(n) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when Starlight has a present obligation (legal or constructive) as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

When Starlight expects some or all of a provision to be reimbursed, for example under an insurance contract, the reimbursement is recognised as a separate asset but only when the reimbursement is virtually certain. The expense relating to any provision is presented in the income statement net of any reimbursement.

If the effect of the time value of money is material, provisions are discounted using a discount rate that reflects the current assessment of the time value of money and the risks specific to the liability.

(o) Trade and other payables

Trade payables and other payables are carried at cost. They represent liabilities for goods and services provided to Starlight prior to the end of the financial year that are unpaid and arise when Starlight becomes obliged to make future payments in respect of the purchase of these goods and services. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

(p) Significant accounting judgements, estimates and assumptions

The preparation of the financial report requires the making of judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the recognised amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses and the disclosure of contingent liabilities. The judgements, estimates and assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis of making the judgements about carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from the judgements, estimates and assumptions.

The judgements, estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision only affects that period or the period of revision and future periods if the revision effects both current and future periods.

(q) Prior year comparatives

Certain comparative information was amended in the financial report to confirm to the current year presentation. These amendments do not have a material impact on the financial results or balance sheet.

3. Changes in accounting policies

Starlight has applied all standards and amendments, which are effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023. Starlight has not early adopted any other standard, interpretation or amendment that has been issued but is not yet effective.

Notes to the Financial Statements

	2023 $	2022 $
4 *Income from Ordinary Activities*		
Fundraising Income		
Fundraising income	45,114,896	39,389,417
Donated goods and services	3,314,213	2,291,897
Total Fundraising Income	48,429,109	41,681,314
Other Income		
Net gain/(loss) on investments	1,544,030	(876,093)
Total Other Income	1,544,030	(876,093)
Total Income from Ordinary Activities	49,973,139	40,805,221

Notes to the Financial Statements

5. Expenses

Included in expenditure are the following items:

	2023 $	2022 $
(a) Employee benefits expense:		
Salaries and employee benefits	22,136,612	15,624,973
Superannuation contributions	2,313,371	1,549,054
Total employee benefits	24,449,983	17,174,027
(b) Finance costs		
Bank Charges	34,028	25,837
Investment fees	60,000	47,135
Other Interest charge	620,000	-
Total finance costs	714,028	72,972
(c) Donated goods and services utilised in:		
Programs	3,314,213	2,291,897
Total donated goods and services	3,314,213	2,291,897
(d) Program costs		
Gross income for the year	49,973,139	40,805,221
Transfer (to)/from Endowment reserve	(3,786,135)	(1,482,833)
Transfer (to)/from Tagged Funds	(1,760,000)	(100,656)
Core income utilised during the year	44,427,004	39,221,732
Program costs	28,757,459	19,546,705
% of income spent on programs	64.7%	49.8%

Notes to the Financial Statements

6. Income Tax
Starlight is a registered charity and is exempt from income tax in accordance with Division 50 Section 50-5 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

	2023 $	2022 $
7. Cash and cash equivalents		
Cash at bank and on hand	3,217,859	3,382,538
Cash term deposits & credit securities	3,695,154	4,756,321
Total cash and cash equivalents	6,913,013	8,138,859
8. Trade and Other Receivables		
Trade debtors	740,398	1,187,224
Other debtors and prepayments	1,142,513	500,141
ATO receivable	240,441	155,020
Total trade and other receivables	2,123,352	1,842,385
9. Investments		
Listed credit securities	5,672,284	3,870,989
Listed real assets	1,775,689	1,118,821
Listed equities	4,894,532	3,565,507
Other	1,027,425	557,696
Total investments	13,369,930	9,113,013

Notes to the Financial Statements

	Cost $	Depreciation $	WDV $
10. Property, Plant and Equipment			
Leasehold improvements			
At start of the year	748,767	(584,270)	**164,497**
Additions (at cost)	-	-	-
Disposals (at cost)	-	-	-
Depreciation for the year	-	(93,595)	(93,595)
At end of the year	748,767	(677,865)	**70,902**
Office furniture and equipment			
At start of the year	607,132	(546,077)	**61,055**
Additions (at cost)	31,158	-	31,158
Disposals (at cost)	-	-	-
Depreciation for the year	-	(48,865)	(48,865)
At end of the year	638,290	(594,942)	**43,348**
Hospital furniture and equipment			
At start of the year	1,582,563	(1,179,785)	**402,778**
Additions (at cost)	779,494	-	779,494
Disposals (at cost)	-	-	-
Depreciation for the year	-	(280,543)	(280,543)
At end of the year	2,362,057	(1,460,328)	**901,729**
At start of the year	**2,938,462**	**(2,310,132)**	628,330
Additions (at cost)	810,652	-	810,652
Disposals (at cost)	-	-	-
Depreciation for the year	-	(423,003)	(423,003)
Total property, plant and equipment	3,749,114	(2,733,135)	1,015,979

Notes to the Financial Statements

11. Leases

This note provides information for leases where Starlight is the lessee.

(i) Amounts recognized on the Statement of Financial Position

The Statement of Financial Position shows the following amounts relating to leases:

	Property $	Equipment $	Total $
(a) Right-of-use assets			
Balance at 1 January 2023	2,254,352	79,896	2,334,248
Additions (at cost)	-	-	-
Disposals (at cost)	(965,601)	-	(965,601)
Depreciation charge for the year	(517,593)	(48,176)	(565,769)
Balance at 31 December 2023	771,158	31,720	802,878

(b) Lease Liabilities

	2023 $	2022 $
Balance at 1 January 2023	2,539,799	1,919,229
Additions/ (disposals)	(1,106,509)	1,179,976
Accretion of interest	96,878	105,111
Payments	(638,278)	(664,517)
Balance at 31 December 2023	891,890	2,539,799
Current	244,218	668,726
Non-Current	647,672	1,871,073
	891,890	2,539,799

Notes to the Financial Statements

Presented below is a maturity analysis of future lease payments:

	2023 $	2022 $
Not later than 1 year	244,218	668,726
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	744,220	1,871,073
Later than 5 years	-	-
	988,438	2,539,799

(ii) Amounts recognized on the Statement of Income & Expenditure

The Statement of Income & Expenditure shows the following amounts relating to leases:

	2023 $	2022 $
Depreciation charge on right-of-use assets		
Property	517,593	542,840
Equipment	48,176	48,176
	565,769	591,016
Interest expense	96,878	105,111

The total cash outflow for leases in 2023 was $638,278 (2022: $664,517). Starlight also had non-cash disposals to the lease liabilities of $1,106,509 in 2023 ($1,179,976 additions in 2022).

12. Intangible assets

Software and systems	Cost $	Amortisation $	WDV $
At the start of the year	359,821	(132,506)	227,315
Additions (at cost)	41,646	-	41,646
Disposals (at cost)	-	-	-
Amortisation for the year	-	(125,665)	(125,665)
Total intangible assets at the end of the year	401,467	(258,171)	143,296

Notes to the Financial Statements

	2023 $	2022 $
13. Payables		
Current		
Trade and other creditors	1,089,424	560,110
Accrued wages, salaries & on-costs	422,148	335,975
Total current payables	1,511,572	896,084

	2023 $	2022 $
14. Provisions		
Current		
Employee benefits	5,365,091	1,478,079
Make good provision	90,733	-
	5,455,824	1,478,079
Non-current		
Employee benefits	459,869	320,496
Make good provision	59,108	149,841
	518,977	470,337

	Employee Provisions $	Make Good Provision $	Total $
At 1 January 2023	1,798,575	149,841	1,948,416
Arising during the year	5,483,424	-	5,483,424
Utilised during the year	(1,457,039)	-	(1,457,039)
At 31 December 2023	5,824,960	149,841	5,974,801

Notes to the Financial Statements

Make Good Provision

A provision to restore lease premises to the original condition at the end of the lease term. It is expected that these costs will not be incurred until the expiration of the lease agreements.

Employee Provisions

The present value of employee entitlements not expected to be settled within 12 months of the balance sheet date have been calculated using the following discount rates:

Assumed annual rate of increase in wages and salary	2.4%	1.7%
Settlement term (years)	1 – 10	1 – 10
Discount rate	2.93-4.42%	0.62 – 3.11%

Following a review of payroll liabilities an additional amount has been identified for certain employees and provided for in the current year.

	2023	2022
Number of employees		
Number of employees at year end		
Permanent	243	216
Casual	115	93
Contractor	19	22
Total	377	331
Full-time equivalent	243	214

Notes to the Financial Statements

15. Commitments and Contingencies

Contingent liabilities

At as 31 December 2023, Starlight had no contingent liabilities (2022: $Nil).

16. Key Management Personnel

Compensation of Key Management Personnel

Other than Non-Executive Directors the Key Management Personnel and positions during the year included:

- Mrs Louise Baxter, Chief Executive Officer & Executive Director
- Mrs Kristie Caddick, Head of Marketing and Fundraising
- Mrs Susan Henry, Head of People and Culture (Resigned August 2023)
- Mrs Joanne Barkl, Head of People and Culture (Joined August 2023)
- Ms Felicity McMahon, Head of Programs
- Mrs Linda Ferguson, Head of Finance and Technology & Company Secretary

Total salaries, benefits, superannuation and other associated on-costs for the Key Management Personnel included:

	2023 $	2022 $
Short-term employee benefits	1,473,102	1,288,357
Post-employment benefits (including salary sacrifice)	137,475	126,775
Total compensation (2023:6, 2022:5)	1,610,577	1,415,132

No remuneration payments were made to Non-Executive Directors during the year.

The Executives and Directors may transact with Starlight in a normal supplier relationship on terms and conditions no more favourable than those with which it is reasonable to expect Starlight would have adopted if dealing with an entity at arm's length.

17. Related Party Disclosures

Transactions with related parties

Donations

During the year Starlight received $nil (2022: $2,728) worth of pro bono support from Herbert Smith Freehills. Mr P. Butler, a previous Director (resigned Dec 2022), is Senior Partner, Litigation, with Herbert Smith Freehills.

Investments

During the year, Starlight provided $nil to Rainbow Fields Limited (2022: $37,500) to fund working capital. Louise Baxter, a Director, is a previous Director of Rainbow Fields Limited (resigned December 2023), an entity in which Starlight Children's Foundation had significant influence.

Notes to the Financial Statements

18. Auditors Remuneration

The auditor of Starlight Children's Foundation is Ernst & Young Australia

	2023 $	2022 $
Fees to Ernst & Young Australia		
For the audit of the statutory financial report	50,315	48,850
For non-audit services	67,500	-
Total remuneration	117,815	48,850

19. Events after the reporting period

As at the date of this report, there are no known adjusting or non-adjusting events after the reporting period.

Notes to the Financial Statements

20. Information on fundraising appeals

The following disclosures are made under the requirements of various pieces of state-based legislation for charitable fundraising. As a national charity, Starlight has presented this information on a national basis in the categories by which we manage fundraising.

	2023 $	2022 $
Fundraising income		
Individual giving	15,128,469	14,557,755
Philanthropy and bequests	11,861,155	6,981,934
Corporate support	6,928,188	7,089,342
Event fundraising	3,765,591	4,424,939
Community fundraising	7,431,493	6,335,447
Donated goods & services	3,314,213	2,291,897
Total fundraising income	48,429,109	41,681,314
Fundraising costs		
Individual giving	8,623,060	7,302,251
Philanthropy and bequests	24,214	23,665
Corporate support	248,463	307,066
Event fundraising	456,136	387,403
Community fundraising	1,805,199	1,433,845
General costs and credit card charges	382,296	269,703
Staff costs	4,947,403	4,352,411
Direct fundraising costs	16,486,771	14,076,344
Indirect costs	1,855,373	1,643,905
Marketing & communications	1,186,665	1,119,769
Total fundraising costs	19,528,809	16,840,018
Net fundraising income	28,900,300	24,841,296
Government Grants	-	-
Non-operating income / (loss)	1,544,030	(876,093)
Net Income	30,444,330	23,965,203

Starlight Children's Foundation Australia

Directors Declaration

In the opinion of the Directors:

(a) The financial statements and notes of Starlight Children's Foundation Australia for the financial year ended 31 December 2023 are in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission Act 2012, including:

  (i) Giving a true and fair view of the Starlight's financial position as at 31 December 2023 and of its performance for the year ended on that date.

  (ii) Complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations and the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission Regulations 2023.

(b) There are reasonable grounds to believe that the Starlight will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

For and on behalf of the Board

Murray Coleman OAM
Chair
Starlight Children's Foundation Australia
Sydney
25 June 2024

Starlight Children's Foundation Australia

Declaration by Chief Executive Officer in respect of Fundraising Appeals

I, Louise Ann Baxter, Chief Executive Officer, of Starlight Children's Foundation Australia, declare in my opinion:

(a) the Statement of Income and Expenditure gives a true and fair view of all income and expenditure of Starlight Children's Foundation Australia with respect to fundraising appeal activities for the twelve months ended 31 December 2023;

(b) the Statement of Financial Position gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs with respect to fundraising appeal activities as at 31 December 2023;

(c) the provisions of the NSW Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 and the WA Charitable Collections Act (1946) and the conditions attached to the authorities have been complied with during the period from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023; and

(d) the internal controls exercised by Starlight Children's Foundation Australia are appropriate and effective in accounting for all income received, and applied by Starlight, from any of its fundraising appeals.

Louise Baxter

Louise Baxter
Chief Executive Officer
Starlight Children's Foundation Australia
25 June 2024

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Independent auditor's report to the members of Starlight Children's Foundation Australia

Report on the financial report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Starlight Children's Foundation Australia (the Company), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2023, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements, including a summary of material accounting policy information, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Company is in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

a. Giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 31 December 2023 and of its financial performance for the year ended on that date; and

b. Complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2022*.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We confirm that the independence declaration required by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, which has been given to the directors of Starlight Children's Foundation Australia, would be in the same terms if given to the directors as at the time of this auditor's report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Information other than the financial report and auditor's report thereon

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information is the directors' report accompanying the financial report.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the directors for the financial report

The directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: https://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Report on the requirements of the *NSW Charitable Fundraising Act 1991* and the *NSW Charitable Fundraising Regulation 2021* and the requirements of the *WA Charitable Collections Act (1946)* and the *WA Charitable Collections Regulations (1947)*

We have audited the financial report as required by Section 24(1) of the *NSW Charitable Fundraising Act 1991* and the *WA Charitable Collections Act (1946)*. Our procedures included obtaining an understanding of the internal control structure for fundraising appeal activities and examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting compliance with the accounting and associated record keeping requirements for fundraising appeal activities pursuant to the *NSW Charitable Fundraising Act 1991* and the *NSW Charitable Fundraising Regulation 2021* and the *WA Charitable Collections Act (1946)* and the *WA Charitable Collections Regulations (1947)*.

Because of the inherent limitations of any assurance engagement, it is possible that fraud, error or non-compliance may occur and not be detected. An audit is not designed to detect all instances of non-compliance with the requirements described in the above-mentioned Act(s) and Regulation(s) as an audit is not performed continuously throughout the period and the audit procedures performed in respect of compliance with these requirements are undertaken on a test basis. The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Opinion

In our opinion:

a. The financial report of Starlight Children's Foundation Australia has been properly drawn up and associated records have been properly kept during the financial year ended 31 December 2023, in all material respects, in accordance with:

    i. Sections 20(1), 22(1-2), 24(1) of the *NSW Charitable Fundraising Act 1991*;

    ii. Sections 14(2) and 17 of the *NSW Charitable Fundraising Regulation 2021*;

    iii. The *WA Charitable Collections Act (1946)*; and

    iv. The *WA Charitable Collections Regulations (1947)*.

b. The money received as a result of fundraising appeals conducted by the company during the financial year ended 31 December 2023 has been properly accounted for and applied, in all material respects, in accordance with the above mentioned Act(s) and Regulation(s).

Ernst & Young

Anton Ivanyi
Partner
Sydney
25 June 2024

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Auditor's independence declaration to the directors of Starlight Children's Foundation Australia

In relation to our audit of the financial report of Starlight Children's Foundation Australia for the financial year ended 31 December 2023, and in accordance with the requirements of Subdivision 60-C of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

a. No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of any applicable code of professional conduct; and

b. No non-audit services provided that contravene any applicable code of professional conduct.

Ernst & Young

Anton Ivanyi
Partner
25 June 2024