



THE HUMOUR FOUNDATION™
Laughter is the best medicine!

National Impact Report

The 2021/2022 financial year was another challenging one for everyone, including for The Humour Foundation. Thankfully, we saw the lifting of COVID-related restrictions in most states throughout the year. The impact however, in hospitals and aged-care settings remained a challenge as all efforts were made to protect our community’s most vulnerable people.

Although this meant periods when our programs could not be delivered face to face, we were able to provide laughter, joy and human connection virtually, through video technology - to children undergoing medical treatment and residents in aged care settings experiencing isolation.

Thanks to kind supporters like you, along with generous partners and community foundations, our programs not only continued wherever feasible, delivery was expanded to new locations, such as children’s vaccination clinics.

The impact of COVID is reflected in the number of ‘rounds’ we delivered and subsequently the number of people impacted this year. However, we are pleased to report that by year’s end we were back in all but two hospitals, bringing joy to as many people as possible right across the country.

The pandemic has emphasised the need to support our seniors in care, many of whom live with dementia or are socially isolated. There has been significant growth of our Laughter Care program, especially in NSW this past year. The impacts of the pandemic make the aged-care space an ongoing challenge to access, however we continue to actively monitor and respond to the growing need within residential aged care facilities.

Thanks to your ongoing support we have been able to impact 164,661 people in a year when laughter was most definitely needed but not necessarily expected.

OUR REACH



159,199

Over 159K kids, carers and staff benefited from Clown Doctors visits



4846

Residents

616

RACF staff

Over 5.4K seniors living in care and their carers benefitted from our Laughter Care program

WE BROUGHT LAUGHTER AND JOY ACROSS AUSTRALIA TO

20

Hospitals

1

Hospice

19

Residential Aged Care Facilities

65

Clown Doctors

13

Laughter Care Performers



1506

No. of Clown Doctor rounds delivered - (75% of planned rounds)



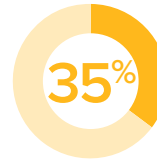
325

No. of Laughter Care visits (35% of planned rounds)

DESPITE THE CHALLENGES COVID-19 CONTINUED TO THROW AT US THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, WE WERE STILL ABLE TO DELIVER IMPACTFUL PROGRAMS ACROSS THE COUNTRY THANKS TO YOUR GENEROSITY.



In FY22 **65%** of the cost of running the programs came from individuals who generously supported us.



The remaining **35%** came from partner organisations who supported us through sponsorship, grants and workplace giving.

WE ARE COMMITTED TO UNDERSTANDING AND IMPROVING THE IMPACT OF OUR PROGRAMS.



A Social Return on Investment study (SROI) conducted by Social Ventures Australia in 2015 found that for ever \$1 invested, the broad Clown Doctors program generates a social return of **\$4.20** to the community.

A new study completed in FY22 also by Social Ventures Australia found that when the Clown Doctors program is delivered in specialist clinical spaces, an investment of **\$1** returns an increased social return **\$9.90** to the community.



\$18,042,552

Using the 2015 SROI calculation, broad Clown Doctors services to the value of over **\$18,042,552** were delivered by The Humour Foundation nationally, in FY22.



Some of us have jobs. Clown Doctors have callings. For David Symons, Artistic Director & Clown Doctor at The Humour Foundation, that calling started at age four. To be fair it wasn't a calling to be a Clown Doctor, as David had no idea what one was at the time. But it was a calling to perform, to entertain, and to see the responses he could elicit from those around him. Something he initially taught himself by studying people.

Curiosity is what eventually enticed David into Clown Doctoring. That was over 20 years ago. Before the Patch Adams movie was released, and at a time when the last thing you would expect to see in the corridors of a hospital, was a Clown Doctor! People simply didn't know what they were.

David's alter ego, Dr Tickle was born out of making mistakes. He is cheeky, enthusiastic and prone to getting things wrong. Dr Tickle likes to tickle people's funny bones. He loves to play, to turn hospital rooms into castles and hospital beds into pirate ships. He wears a pineapple suit, a pair of mismatched shoes and carries a collection of moustaches in his green felt hat. He says Good Morning no matter what time of day it is and collects autographs on the roll of toilet paper hanging from his toy stethoscope.

"It is truly humbling to work as a Clown Doctor. People often comment that it must be hard to work with sick kids. But usually you feel better at the end of a Clown Doctor shift than before it. As a Clown Doctor it is your job to take great interest in other people, to make real connections with them and then to provoke an uplifting interaction.

This is not an easy job, but it is a privileged one because it asks you to be your best self - to engage with great warmth, energy and compassion - to do what we call "open heart surgery". And the most wonderful reward is that you get the positivity you offer back in spades. The joy is amplified.

Dr Tickle (AKA David Symons, Artistic Director & Clown Doctor, The Humour Foundation)



Special thanks to Aged Persons Welfare Foundation - Wesley Mission, Annie / Danks Trust, Channel 7 Telethon Trust, CommBank Staff Foundation, Eastern Star Foundation, EKORNES PTY LTD, Energy Safe Victoria, Hyundai Help for Kids, James N Kirby, John James Foundation, Moose Toys, Pierce Armstrong, Port Waratah Coal Services, Randwick City Council, The Marian & E.H. Flack Trust, The Snow Foundation and Wishlist for their support in FY22.