

The Humour Foundation Impact Report

2022-2023
Financial Year



Exploring and building on our programs

The 2022-2023 financial year was another busy one for The Humour Foundation, bringing laughter where it was unexpected, yet most needed. This year, with your generous support, we continued to make a difference, impacting over 251,000 children, aged care residents, carers and staff in 21 hospitals, one hospice and 21 residential aged care facilities around Australia. We also welcomed eight new Clown Doctors and Laughter Care Specialists to our community during the year.

With your support, it's also been a year for us to continue exploring and building on our programs, bringing laughter, joy and connection to children's hospitals and aged care facilities in new and different ways.

Western Australia

The Humour Foundation's Clown Doctors and Laughter Care programs promote the therapeutic power of laughter, creativity and human connection in healthcare settings. This year we launched an exciting and innovative pilot program with Perth Children's Hospital in its Plastics and Fractures Outpatient Clinic, marking a significant milestone in patient care. Building on our extensive expertise in outpatient clinics in other cities, Clown Doctors have now been embedded into the clinic to improve patient experience and foster a positive environment for children and families attending the specialty clinic, as well as hospital staff. It sets the stage for potential expansion to other outpatient clinics and clinical areas, reflecting the commitment to integrating Clown Doctors as valued members of therapeutic teams.

South Australia

During the year, we extended our reach in South Australia, customising our Laughter Care program normally delivered in residential aged care facilities, to support patients over 65 years in a hospital environment at Flinders Medical Centre. This built on our existing Clown Doctors program we have been delivering at the centre since 2006 and allowed performers to work with both younger and older patients, often in the same day. There has been a lot of enthusiasm for the program from families, hospital staff and management and we are now exploring sustainable funding options.

Queensland and New South Wales

As well as piloting customised Laughter Care programs in different environments, we delivered our first Laughter Care program in Queensland at two sites. The program also continues to grow and go from strength to strength in New South Wales, bringing together medicine and the arts and improving the quality of life of aged care residents in a unique, person-centric way.

Building on our expertise

To work in sensitive hospital environments and create genuine human connection, our performers undergo continuous professional development.

In honour of The Humour Foundation's late co-founder, this year saw the inaugural Dr Peter Spitzer Scholarship awarded. Peter was a great believer in research, training and collaboration and the scholarship in his name will provide financial support for a member of The Humour Foundation community to investigate a topic, issue, program or training that would benefit our healthcare clowning work. This year we congratulated Emilie Bloom (aka Dr Fizzy Whizzy) as our first scholarship recipient, spending time with Israel's Dream Doctors and being mentored by her host Shoshi Ofir (aka Dr Hearta) proving what a gift healthcare clowning is to the world.

Using professional performers, rather than volunteers, is what makes The Humour Foundation so unique. In fact, a hopeful Clownern (apprentice Clown Doctor) must successfully complete 50 hospital rounds under the mentorship of senior Clown Doctors before they graduate to their red nose.



**THE
HUMOUR
FOUNDATION**
Laughter is the best medicine!

Your impact in numbers

Because of you, we were able to bring laughter where it is unexpected, yet most needed.



239,204

Children, carers and staff benefitted from Clown Doctor visits



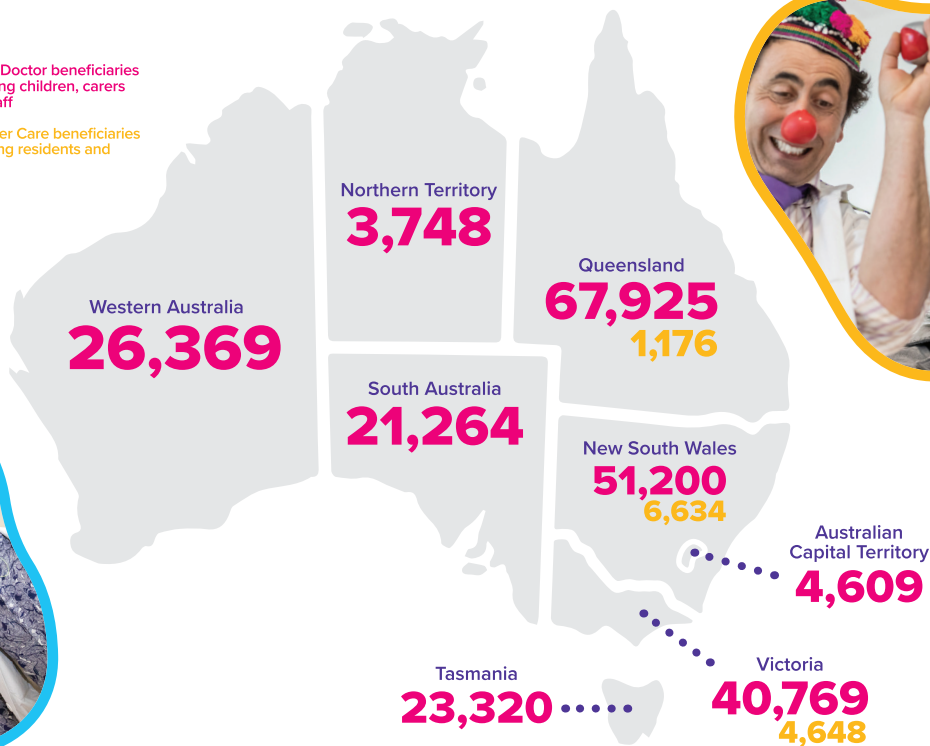
Residents and residential aged care facility staff benefitted from our Laughter Care program

12,458



You are making a difference

- Clown Doctor beneficiaries including children, carers and staff
- Laughter Care beneficiaries including residents and staff



We brought laughter and joy around Australia

21
Hospitals

65
Clown Doctors

858
Laughter Care visits



21
Residential Aged Care Facilities

01
Hospice

1893
Clown Doctor visits



13
Laughter Care Specialists



Thanks to your generosity we delivered impactful programs across the country



54% of the cost of running our programs came from individuals who generously supported us.

54%

46% came from our partner organisations including corporates, community fundraising, social enterprise and trusts and foundations.

46%

We are committed to understanding and improving the impact of our programs

A Social Return on Investment study (SROI) completed in FY15 found that when the Clown Doctors program is delivered in **hospitals**, an investment of \$1 returns an increased 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 of \$9.90 to the community.



Using the 2015 Social Return on Investment calculation, the Clown Doctors program delivered over

\$20,608,500

in value nationally in the 2023 Financial Year



The Clown Doctors really made me laugh and smile when I thought I couldn't. I struggled to be positive, but the Clown Doctors' jokes and humour really distracted me and made me forget about being in hospital. Clown Doctors made me feel comfortable in such a scary environment and always came past to see me! The Humour Foundation is amazing!

Abby,
long-term patient, Gold Coast University Hospital

The Clown Doctors offer wonderful support to patients and families attending the plastics dressing and fracture clinics. Staff also report that they highly value the Clown Doctors ability to support clinicians while they provide patient care; enhancing the patient's experience throughout their treatment.

Jo Flemming,
Clinical Nurse Manager, Outpatients Department,
Perth Children's Hospital

The positive influence of the Clown Doctors extends far beyond their ability to bring laughter. They establish a strong rapport with both patients and staff, forging meaningful connections. This reduces the children's anxiety around the staff and helps them see us as part of the fun.

Laura Lloyd Jones,
Registered Nurse, Centenary Hospital for
Women & Children, Canberra

With our heartfelt thanks to all our partners and supporters this year

The Humour Foundation does not receive government or hospital funding and is supported by the generous financial support of individuals, corporate partners and community grants. Our biggest thanks and gratitude is extended to all our partners and supporters this year for your ongoing support of our work. We literally couldn't do our work without your generous financial contribution.

Aged Persons Welfare Foundation

Annie Danks Trust
Bowlers Club of NSW
Central Coast Leagues Club
Channel 7 Telethon Trust
Chatswood RSL
City of Sydney RSL
Commonwealth Bank through the CommBank Staff Foundation
Community Benefit Fund
Dooleys Lidcombe Catholic Club
Eastern Star Foundation
Ekornes Pty Ltd
Humpty Dumpty Foundation
Hyundai Help for Kids
James N Kirby Foundation
Jemena
John James Memorial Foundation
Toronto Workers Club
Moose Toys
Morialta Charitable Trust
Mosman Club
Mounties Group
Parramatta Leagues Club
Pierce Armstrong Foundation
Randwick City Council

South Newcastle Rugby League Club

The Marian and E.H. Flack Trust
The Raymond E Purves Foundation
The Wests Group Australia
Thyne Reid Foundation
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Wenty Leagues
Wishlist
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Thank you for your support.

To make a donation or chat to a member of our friendly team, please call 02 8978 4500 or email info@humourfoundation.org.au.

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