

The Humour Foundation Impact Summary

2023-2024
Financial Year



A milestone year

The 2023-2024 financial year was another remarkable chapter for The Humour Foundation as we celebrated **the highest number of beneficiaries and visits across both the Clown Doctor and Laughter Care programs in the organisation's 27 year history**. Thanks to our generous supporters, we helped 295,837 children, carers, families, patients, aged care residents and staff across 21 hospitals, one children's hospice, and 25 residential aged care facilities throughout Australia. We also welcomed two new Clown Doctors and one new Laughter Care Specialist into our community. With your support, we've continued innovating and expanding our programs, bringing laughter, joy and connection where it is unexpected, yet most needed.

Our impact in action

The Clown Doctor and Laughter Care programs saw record-breaking numbers of beneficiaries and visits. Clown Doctors interacted with 281,400 beneficiaries and recorded the highest ever Clown Doctor rounds at 1,909. Importantly, the program returned to many locations for the first time since COVID-19. Laughter Care interactions also rose to 14,437, with a record 903 visits.

Expanding clinical collaborations and program diversification

In the 2023-2024 financial year, The Humour Foundation expanded Clown Doctor collaborations, underscoring the versatility and impact of the program. The program reached specialised areas such as mental health services and fracture clinics, where Clown Doctors offer specialised support and distraction techniques that help both staff and children manage anxiety and discomfort during painful procedures or extended hospital stays. Concurrently, the Laughter Care program strengthened its partnership with Carers ACT—an organisation supporting unpaid carers—by again delivering our successful Playfulness in Care workshop, which offers valuable principles and techniques for those caring for individuals with dementia at home. We also initiated pilot programs for adult patients at St John of God Hospitals in Frankston and Geelong, Victoria. These advancements reflect our ongoing commitment to enhancing support for both healthcare providers and aged care residents.

Celebrating key partnerships

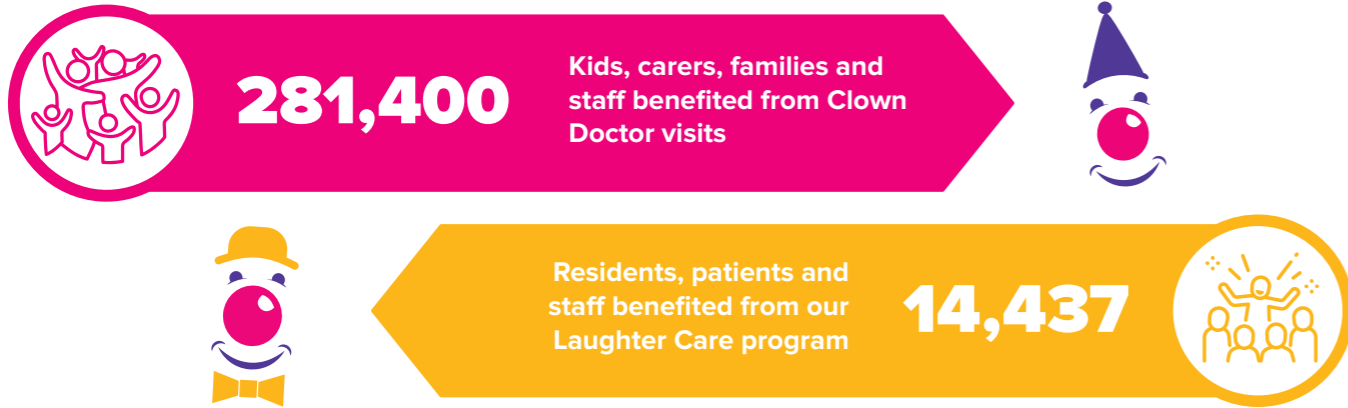
This year marked significant milestones and strengthened partnerships for The Humour Foundation. We celebrated a remarkable 25-year anniversary with founding partner CommBank that built further awareness of the Clown Doctors program and unique opportunities for the CommBank team to engage with The Humour Foundation. The 2024 Smile Month campaign was energetic and emotive, brought to life through a multi-channel approach, featuring the Clown Doctors, comedian Jimmy Rees OAM as an honorary Clown Doctor, and CommBank staff in a celebratory clown choir.

Additionally, we marked a decade-long partnership with Hyundai Help For Kids. This partnership has been instrumental in supporting our programs, and we took the opportunity to celebrate the numerous achievements and milestones reached over the past ten years with their support.

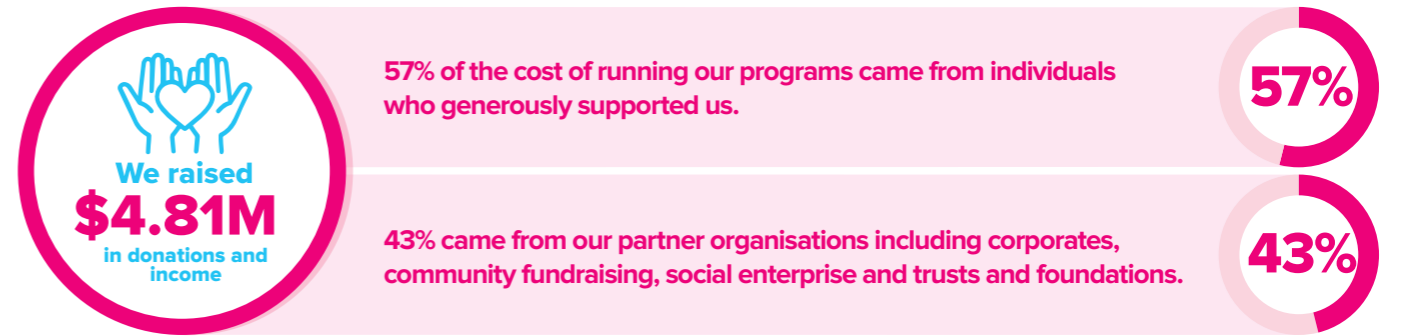


Your impact in numbers

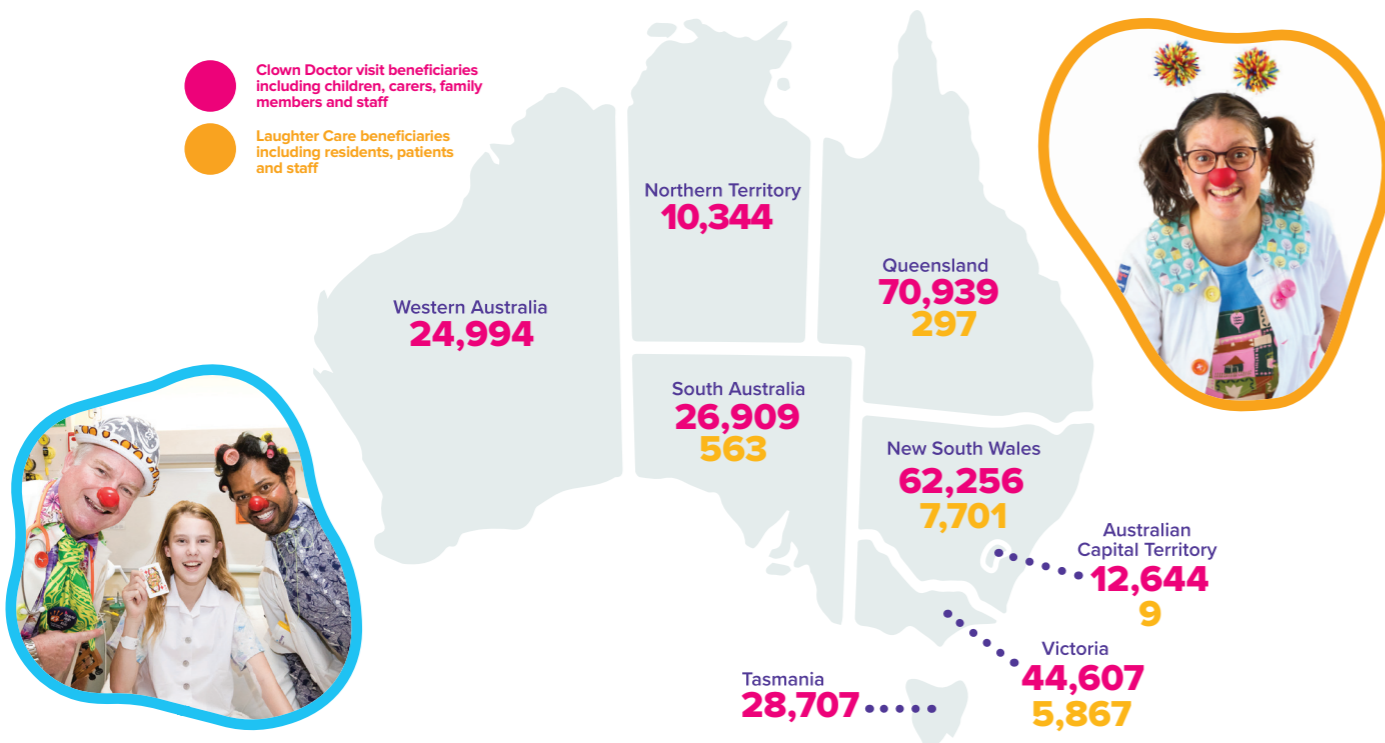
Because of you, we were able to bring laughter where it is unexpected, yet most needed.



Thanks to your generosity we delivered impactful programs across the country



You are making a difference around Australia



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

A 2015 Social Return on Investment (SROI) report found that when the Clown Doctors program is delivered in a **broad range of hospital spaces**, an investment of \$1 returns \$4.20 of social benefit to the community.



A subsequent 2022 SROI report found that when the Clown Doctors program is delivered in **specialist clinics**, an investment of \$1 returns \$9.90 of social benefit to the community.



Using the 2015 and 2022 Social Return on Investment calculations, The Humour Foundation's Clown Doctors program delivered value of over **\$24,878,000** nationally in FY24.

We brought laughter and joy around Australia



In the 2024-2025 financial year, The Humour Foundation will be developing an Impact Measurement and Evaluation Framework for the Clown Doctor and Laughter Care programs. This framework will build on prior studies of our impact, including Social Return on Investment reports, to ensure we can effectively and efficiently understand and communicate the impact of our programs to key stakeholders.

The Clown Doctors were a bright spot in the day during a long six day journey through ICU.

Noah,
Parent, Perth Children's Hospital

The quality of care the Clown Doctors deliver is exceptional, and their understanding of the developmental needs of our young patients is outstanding. Many of our patients and their families are receiving medical care for extended periods, sometimes years, so the Clown Doctors offer a precious reprieve, allowing these children to experience moments of fun and normalcy amidst their medical journeys.

Katie Smith,
Nurse Unit Manager - Day Cancer Centre,
The Royal Children's Hospital

Honestly, I did not have a high expectation of our visit to the hospital. I was feeling quite down about the whole ordeal. Having Dr O'Dear come in and turn a horrible experience into a more positive and memorable one for the both of us was extraordinary. I now appreciate how important this program is for our children.

Stephanie,
Parent, Queensland Children's
Hospital Burns Clinic

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, trusts and foundations and community grants. Our biggest thanks and gratitude is extended to them all this year for their ongoing support of our work. We literally couldn't do our work without such generous contributions.

Allport Bequest
Campsie RSL
Channel 7 Telethon Trust
Chatswood RSL
Commonwealth Bank through the CommBank Staff Foundation
Community Benefit Fund, Queensland
Dooleys Lidcombe Catholic Club
Dora Creek & District Workers Club
Ekornes Pty Ltd/Stressless
Humpty Dumpty Foundation
Hyundai Help for Kids
James N Kirby Foundation
John James Memorial Foundation
Marian and EH Flack Trust
Margaret Lawrence Bequest
Masonic Charities Trust
Moose Toys
Mosman Club
Mounties Group
Neil and Lynda Wallis
Pierce Armstrong Foundation
Raymond E Purves Foundation
South Sydney Junior Rugby League Club
Stan Perron Charitable Foundation
Tasmanian Roadside Appeal Team

Toronto Workers Club
Thyne Reid Foundation
Tricia Fortier OAM
Turosi Giving
Wenty Leagues
Wishlist
Unite4Kids





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

Level 7/9 Help Street
Chatswood NSW 2067

Follow us on social media

Facebook  : @ClownDoctors
Instagram  : @humourfoundation
LinkedIn  : HumourFoundation

Visit us at:
humourfoundation.org.au

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