



BRAINWAVE

2022

Annual Report





Our Purpose

At Brainwave, we believe informed, resilient and connected families enable the best outcomes for children.

Our purpose is to reduce the impact of paediatric neurological conditions on children and their families, by supporting families and children with brain injuries and illnesses to adapt and thrive by:

Providing holistic support to families at the point of diagnosis including information, referrals and other resources.

Providing ongoing whole-of-family support as the needs of parents, siblings and children change over time.

Connecting families to one another and facilitate opportunities to build authentic, meaningful and ongoing relationships.



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Acknowledgment of Country

Brainwave Australia acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as the original custodians of the land, and respects the rights that they hold as the Traditional Custodians. We also recognise the dispossession of the land and its ongoing effects on First Nations Peoples today.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers should be aware that this publication may contain images or names of people who have since passed away.





A message from the CEO & Chair

Relying predominantly on face-to-face fundraising and family events, the COVID pandemic continued to have an effect on Brainwave Australia's ability to raise the revenue needed to provide our services.

However, with an 18% increase in families registered with us, now 1,180, we took an important decision to maintain our current level of support to continue to meet their needs, therefore incurring a small loss for the financial year.

During the year, as well as ongoing information and advice, peer support and funding of therapy and equipment, we provided 'kids and sibs' days in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane, and resumed the Brainwave Camp in Melbourne.

"During the worst time of our life you were there to help in a way we could never have." – Stacy

The year also saw the launch of an exciting new social enterprise, Brainwave Bikes. We value the support of Mercedes-Benz Australia, Cleanaway, 99 Bikes, Good Cycles, Chain Reaction, Newsboys Foundation, Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation, local governments and WISE Employment that allows us to provide work experience and training for young people living with disabilities as a transition to mainstream employment, including in families supported by Brainwave, as well as provide affordable quality bicycles to families and, in turn, reduce landfill.

A new fundraising event, The Big Quiz hosted by Charlie Pickering and produced by JT Productions saw 33 teams actively compete online for the inaugural trophy.

The support from our corporate partners – our Principal Partner, Mercedes Benz, along with Ferrero, Smartways, BluePrint, OMD, and many others listed on page 16 & 17 has again been outstanding through ongoing financial and expert contributions that have enabled Brainwave to continue its work. We were delighted that the Mercedes Benz Golf Trophy with the Mercedes Benz Retailers achieved a record amount raised this year.

A special thanks to the Barr Family Foundation and OMD's 24 Hours of Power event that funded the Brainwave Camp.

We welcomed Andy Cloke, a Partner with PwC and Natasha Carr, Private Clients Director with nab to the Board, replacing long serving Directors Bernie Bicknell and Karen te Lintelo, whom we thank for their tremendous service.

As well as all the children's hospitals, our heartfelt thanks go to the team, volunteers and families for their tremendous resilience, commitment and hard work over the year.

– Paul and Karen

Brainwave Australia provides care & support when families need it.

No matter where families are in Australia, we help support them by providing holistic support in times of crisis, ongoing access to information and resources, and build meaningful social connections with and between families.



We provide holistic support to families at the point of diagnosis including information, referrals and other resources.



We provide ongoing whole-of-family support as the needs of parents, siblings and children change over time.



We connect families to one another and facilitate opportunities to build authentic, meaningful and ongoing relationships.

Where we lend a hand



At hospital

- Bear Essentials Pack
- Emergency Accommodation
- Meal Vouchers

In the community

- Kids and Sibs days
- Family camps
- Local social groups
- Christmas parties
- Free event tickets

At home

- Parent Peer Support
- Information and webinars
- Therapy and equipment
- Online workshops
- Online children's activities
- Birthday & Christmas Cards
- Emergency support for families affected by natural disasters

The therapy and equipment program provides critical support to children from hospital discharge, including this year:

- Night time seizure monitoring watch and anti-suffocation pillow
- Wheelchair rentals
- Tandem bikes
- Home modifications
- Neuropsychology therapy

Brainwave has assisted hospitals all over the country!

Victoria:

Joan Kirner Women's & Children's Hospital
The Royal Children's Hospital
Monash Children's Hospital

New South Wales:

John Hunter Children's Hospital
The Children's Hospital at Westmead
Sydney Children's Hospital

Queensland:

Queensland Children's Hospital

South Australia:

Women's & Children's Hospital

Western Australia:

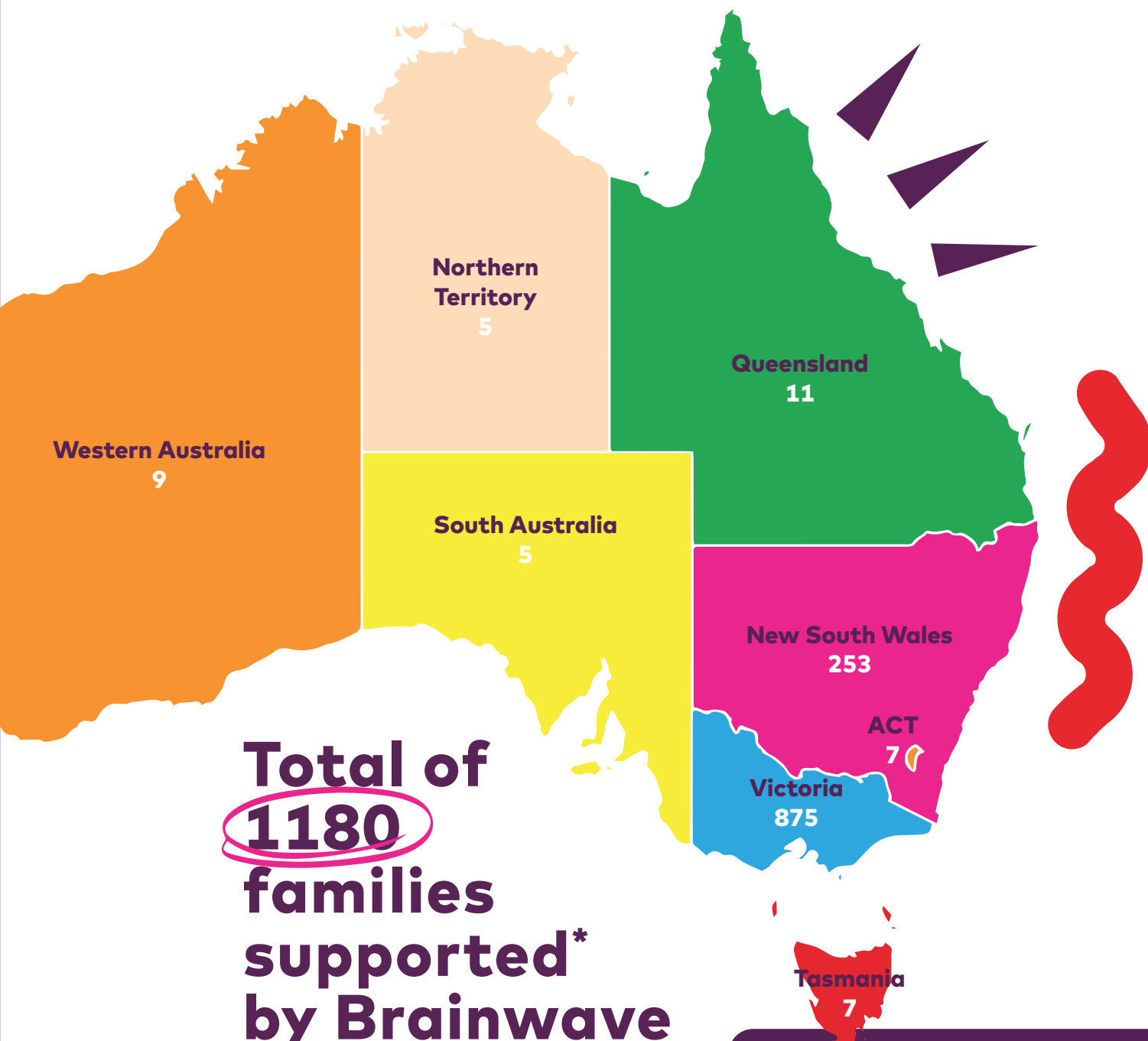
Perth Children's Hospital

Tasmania:

The Royal Hobart Hospital



Children and their families supported by Brainwave across Australia



**Total of
1180
families
supported*
by Brainwave
in Australia
this year.**

*That's an increase of 183 families from last year.

With the support of GIVIT, Brainwave was able to assist Brainwave families affected by floods in the replacement of household appliances.

What's new?

With the support of partners Mercedes-Benz, 99 Bikes, Cleanaway, Good Cycles, WISE Employment, Chain Reaction, Newsboys Foundation and local governments, we were delighted this year to establish a new social enterprise – Brainwave Bikes



Brainwave Bikes is a new social enterprise built to receive, refurbish and retail donated used bikes in order to provide affordable bikes to families, work experience and training for young people living with disabilities as a transition to mainstream employment. With over half of used bikes ending up in landfill, Brainwave Bikes will play an important role in the growing circular economy.

A big thanks to Mercedes-Benz Vans for the donation of a Vito van and the City of Kingston for a trailer.





THE BIG QUIZ

Hosted by the wonderful Charlie Pickering, Brainwave's 'The Big Quiz' brought 33 teams in their workplaces together from across Australia for a unique live quiz competition with surprise guests, entertainment and prizes. A big thanks to Porter Novelli for pro-bono marketing and congratulations to the winning team from BDO.



Here for the **WHOLE** family:

In July 2021 my three year old son developed Myelodysplastic Syndrome and required a bone marrow transplant as the only possibility of survival. In January 2022 he had that transplant.

He suffered many complications and unfortunately his little body could not cope with the chemotherapy and all the medication. In February his brain shut down and he suffered a total global brain injury. Moshe spent 2 months in ICU in a critical condition and was on life support twice in that time. His siblings came to see him for the last time in ICU and the general thought was that Moshe sadly would not recover. Moshe did recover thankfully, although it is a long journey, he is doing well.

The effect of this situation on my other children though was horrendous. Whilst we lived in hospital for four months, one of my children disengaged completely from school and fell very far behind. I was unaware of the situation, not that I could have done anything. She was suffering, and she switched off. The situation became such that she could not continue in school. Whilst my son was dying, my daughter was getting expelled. I was told about Brainwave by my social worker who applied for funding to help with tutoring for my child.

This tutoring saved her. I can't thank you enough, I couldn't solve this problem, which was spiralling out of control. The tutoring stopped the downward spiral and slowly has caught her back up to almost class level, and she is continuing to do better and better now. It switched her back on, and she had one on one support and focus, and she wasn't lost in the crowd anymore. Without this help I know without a doubt she would be out of school, and she's only 10. Thank you so much.

During the worst time of our life you were there to help in a way we could never have.

Thank you again.

- Stacy

**After 27 years,
Brainwave Australia
remains the only
national charity that
supports children
with neurological
conditions and their
families.**



Financials

It takes plenty of heart, passion and determination to tackle neurological conditions in children. This battle for must be fought on solid financial foundations. That's why we are committed to maintaining a sound financial position, this year and into the future.

We raised
\$303,078

↑ 18%
increase in family registration

Job Keeper

-\$177,445 ↓
operating loss

Whilst fundraising income rose 17% to \$303,078 for the year, Job Keeper was no longer available to offset the pre-COVID level of fundraising we achieved. However, we decided to maintain the level of our services to respond to the 18% increase in registration of children and their families requesting support, resulting in an operating loss of \$177,445 for the year. Despite the deficit, Brainwave continues to have a strong balance sheet with net cash inflows for the year.

Brainwave Australia, like all charities, has experienced another challenging year due to the continuing restrictions because of the COVID-19 pandemic. This has significantly impacted the organisations' ability to hold fundraising events, including the Annual Gala as well as provide family support events to our Brainwave families.

Each year, Brainwave prepares a full set of accounts which are independently audited by BDO.

Please note our statutory accounts are available upon request.





We couldn't do it with you

In 2021/22 our corporate Partners and Sponsors generously assisted Brainwave through the funding of programs, donations and direct purchase of equipment. The shared commitment of our partners has been integral to Brainwave's work. These organisations have made a big impact on the lives of many children and their families.



PRINCIPAL PARTNER

MERCEDES-BENZ AUSTRALIA

Mercedes-Benz Australia has supported Brainwave's work for over ten years by providing sponsorship and support through:

- Fundraising at the annual Golf Trophy
- Providing volunteers for events
- Donating proceeds of the sale of Mercedes-Benz merchandise at their National office
- Attending fundraising galas and other events
- Donating auction items for galas
- Providing sponsorship for the establishment of Brainwave Bikes

We thank Mercedes-Benz Melbourne, Adelaide, Sydney, Toorak, Berwick, Waverley, Ringwood and Doncaster for their support.

CORPORATE PARTNERS

FERRERO

SMARTWAYS
LOGISTICS FOR LIFE

OMD

**blue
print**



Thanks to you

A big thank you to the donors & products for the Bear Essentials Packs, along with the ongoing support from our partnering Children's Hospital's.

DONORS

- GIVIT
- Madame Flavour
- Ferndale Foods Australia
- 3M
- Haper Collins
- Blueprint
- Pinchapoo
- GripSox
- Smartways for storage & shipment
- City of Kingston
- Barr Family Foundation
- Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation
- Chain Reaction
- Commonwealth Bank
- Newsboys Foundation
- Highball Cars
- Bosch

PARTNERS

- The Royal Children's Hospital
- Monash Children's Hospital
- The Children's Hospital at Westmead
- Sydney Children's Hospital
- Queensland Children's Hospital
- Women's and Children's Hospital SA
- Perth Children's Hospital
- The Royal Hobart Hospital
- Joan Kirner Women's & Children's Hospital
- John Hunter Children's Hospital



BRAINWAVE

Supporting families & children with
brain injuries & illness to adapt & thrive



Principal Partner

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