



BRAINWAVE

# 2023 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.

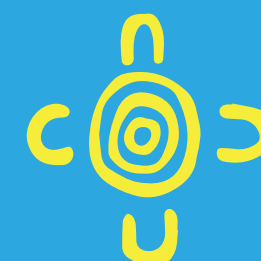
Providing ongoing whole-of-family support as the needs of parents, siblings and children change over time.

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

In a busy and successful year for Brainwave, family registrations increased by 16%. This rise of over a third in new family registrations over the last two years has occurred through continuing to build our services and networks, including with all the children's hospitals. We now support over 1,300 children with brain illnesses and injuries and their families across Australia.

We are delighted to report that our family events – family days, Camp Brainwave and Christmas parties - saw a record 1,338 family members attending.

In its second full year, Brainwave Bikes, in partnership with Mercedes-Benz, 99 Bikes, Sustainability Victoria, Cleanaway, Citywide, WISE Employment and Melbourne metro councils, has become the largest recycler of bicycles in Victoria with a total of over 2,000 used bikes sold, donated or recycled. With the support of the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation, Newsboys Foundation and Jack Brockhoff Foundation, the pre-employment program enabled eight unemployed young people living with disabilities (including from families supported by Brainwave) to transition to mainstream employment and one returned to complete his year 10.

This year saw Brainwave's first public event with the inaugural Klim Swim Challenge with long-time Brainwave Ambassador and Olympic Champion, Michael Klim, saw nearly 400 swimmers make waves in March and raise over \$100,000 for Brainwave, whilst, in total, swimming from Melbourne to Cairns.

Brainwave's iconic gala returned from the COVID hiatus with host Mark Beretta OAM entertaining nearly 300 guests at the Melbourne Town Hall and raising over \$100,000 net profit.

With these funds, Brainwave was able to run its Camp Brainwave, ten family activity days in Victoria, NSW and Queensland, and Christmas parties at both Melbourne and Sydney Luna Parks. In hospital, we

provided over 200 Bear Essential Packs, as well as meal vouchers and emergency accommodation.

In the home, we ran online mindful Mondays and book reading sessions and we funded \$71,222 in essential therapy and equipment, particularly in the critical period from diagnosis to the approval of the child's NDIS plan, if eligible.

For the first time, we have funded ambulance cover and provided grocery and fuel vouchers to families unable to put food on the table or fuel the car to go to therapy appointments as a result of the cost of living crisis.

Marking eleven years with our Principal Partner, Mercedes-Benz, we are indebted for their ongoing support, alongside our valued corporate supporters, OMD, Blueprint, Ferrero, Herbert Smith Freehills and Smartways. And a big thank you to the trusts and foundations and donors that supported our work, including the Hansen Little Foundation and the Nigel & Patricia Peck Foundation.

Lastly, we welcomed highly experienced corporate CEO and Non-Executive Director, Fran Ereira, to the Board, and legal counsel Malcolm Haack to the Finance, Audit and Risk Management Committee.

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

– Paul and Karen



# Brainwave Australia provides support when families most need it.

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



**We provide** 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

### Therapy and equipment examples:

- Night watch monitor and anti-suffocation pillow
- Wheelchair and equipment hire for hospital discharge
- Children's exercise bike
- Ambulance cover
- TREK all terrain pram
- Adaptive clothing
- Petrol and grocery vouchers
- Specialised formula and dietitian support
- Occupational and speech 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

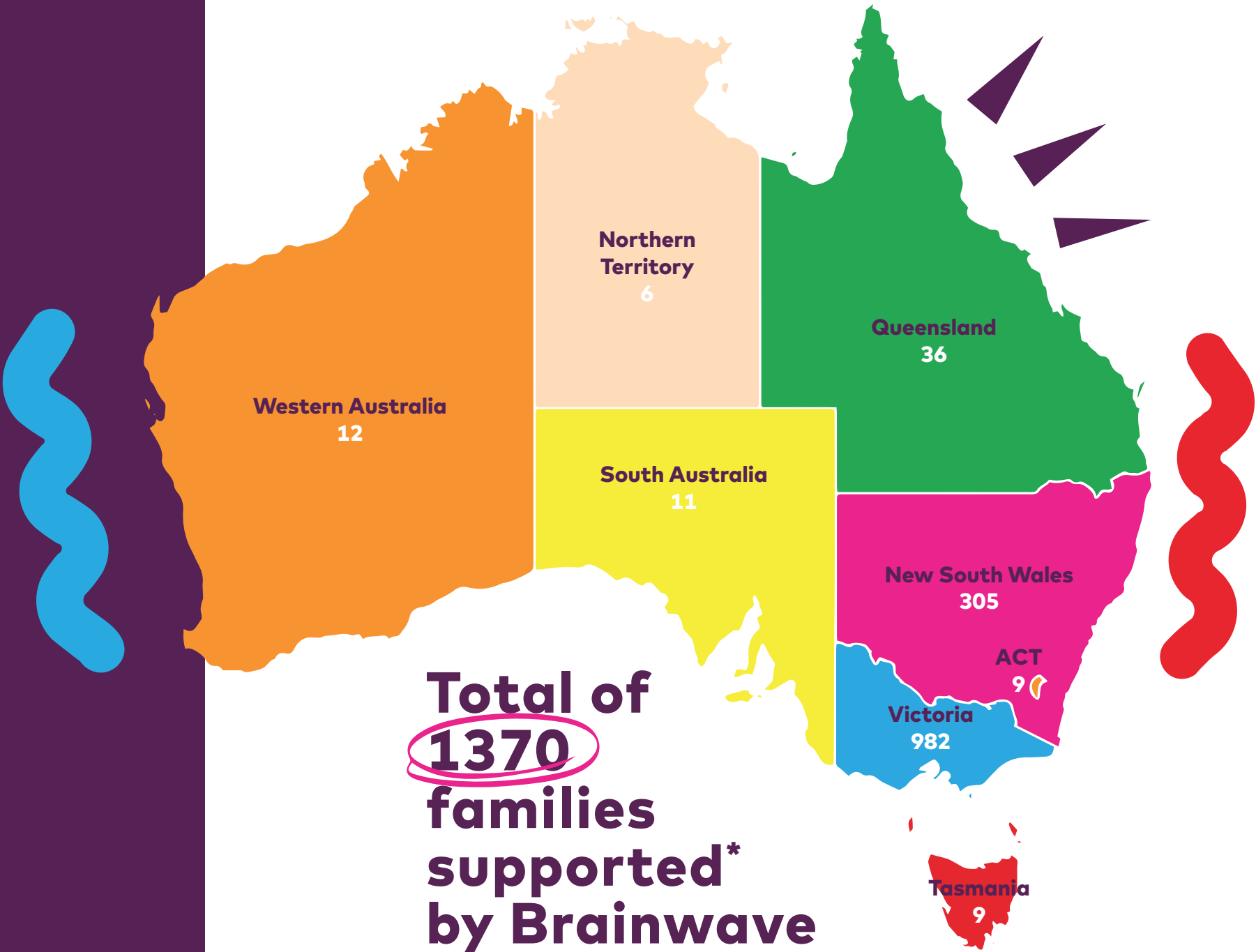
Western Australia:

Perth Children's Hospital

Tasmania:

The Royal Hobart Hospital

Children and their families supported by Brainwave across Australia



Total of 1370 families supported\* by Brainwave in Australia this year.

\*That's an increase of 16% from last year.



# What's New?

In November, after the COVID hiatus, we resumed the iconic Brainwave Gala and Mark Beretta OAM welcomed nearly 300 guests to the Melbourne Town Hall with Ned the organist playing AC/DC's Back in Black.

We were indebted to award winning events management company, Peanut Productions, for their pro bono support, the city of Melbourne for subsidising the venue and the many companies that donated prizes. Much fun was had and we were delighted to raise a net \$109,677 on the night.



**Now in its second year, Brainwave Bikes has established itself as the largest recycler of used bicycles in the state.**

Of the over 2,000 bikes donated, two-thirds were refurbished and sold or donated, with the remainder dismantled and recycled, including the parts sold or used to refurbish other bikes. That's 28,000 kilograms of waste saved from landfill.

We welcomed support from Sustainability Victoria to work with all the Melbourne metro local governments to improve the recycling of bikes with their residents.

Thanks to the support of Newsboys Foundation and the Jack Brockhoff Foundation, eight unemployed young people living with disabilities gained the personal and vocational skills to enter mainstream employment, and one returned to education to complete his year 10.

A big thanks to partners Mercedes-Benz, 99 Bikes, Cleanaway, Citywide and WISE Employment.





In March, we added a new exciting event to the calendar with long time Brainwave Ambassador, Michael Klim OAM – the Brainwave Klim Swim Challenge.

We challenged all Australians to experience the joy of swimming, set and reach their personal goals, exercise for physical and mental health, and build family relationships, whilst raising funds for children with neurological conditions and their families.

Nearly 400 swimmers across the country took the challenge, swimming 5,204 kilometres – or from Melbourne to Cairns – and raised a fantastic \$110,439 for Brainwave. Congratulations to the Firbank Aquastars who swam the most – 522 kilometres – and the Manly 624s team for raising the most – over \$10,000.

**"Swimming has given me my purpose, motivation, challenges and reward in life. With my diagnosis of neurological condition CIDP, it is time to harness swimming to raise awareness of the neurological conditions that affect me and thousands of Australians and raise funds to support them through their life changing journey."**

*– Michael Klim*





## Meet Daniel

**Daniel loves cars, riding his bike and playing with his siblings. In 2022, at age six, Daniel began unexpectedly seizing and suffering 12-16 seizures a day. These seizures have now resulted in Encephalopathy, despite being very bright prior to his seizure commencement.**

Daniel and his family are still waiting for a diagnosis and until recently it was unsafe for Daniel to go to bed alone. Daniel is the youngest child of a very healthy family. His seizure activity resulted in a significant upheaval to family life as his unusual seizure type resulted in a lack of drive to breathe, resulting in CPR being attended.

Daniel's siblings have now witnessed the trauma of a possible adverse outcome twice and his parents have become incredibly vigilant to ensure his safety at all times, specifically to ensure he is breathing effectively at night. Daniel's seizures cannot be monitored by the usual seizure devices, and after seven months of unsustainable, constant parental observation and vigilance, a Paediatric Neurosurgeon and Epilepsy CNC recommended the SAMI camera kit. The SAMI camera undertakes infrared video imaging of Daniel and will be used as a tool to collect important data and provide alerts to a connected iPod of seizure activity.

Brainwave Australia recently funded the SAMI Camera Kit for Daniel, which has made a "massive difference" for Daniel's family. The SAMI Camera enables Daniel to go to bed at night alone and we can have time together as a family until 1 parent goes to be by his bedside overnight.

**"It has been a challenge for us financially with the unexpected costs an unwell child incurs. [Brainwave's] generosity has enabled us to access an invaluable tool to help Daniel, peace of mind for us as parents and increased quality time as a family."**

*— Karen*

**After nearly three decades, Brainwave Australia remains the sole national charity dedicated to providing comprehensive support for children with brain illnesses and injuries, along with their entire families.**

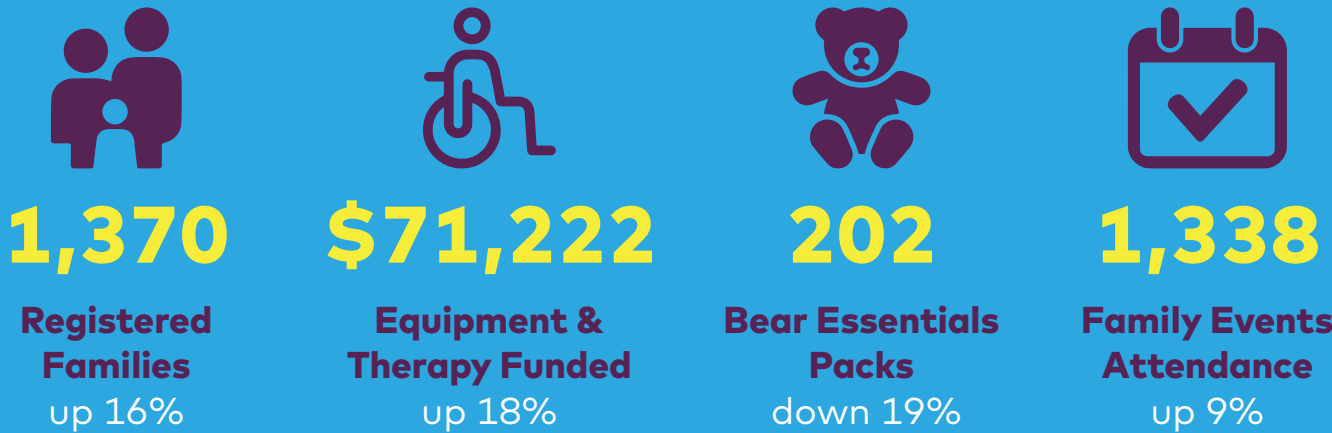




# In Numbers

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.

## Services Scorecard



## Family Activies & Support

\$264,382  
up 22%







# We couldn't do it with you

In 2022/23 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, Perth, Toorak, Berwick, Waverley, Ringwood, Doncaster, Mornington, Toowong & Macgregor, North Jacklin, Sanderson and Gosford for their support.

## CORPORATE PARTNERS

**FERRERO**

**SMARTWAYS**  
LOGISTICS FOR LIFE



# Thanks to you

A huge thank you to our supporters for their invaluable contributions to brainwave this year.

- |                                 |                                      |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • 3M                            | • Herbert Smith Freehills            |
| • 99 Bikes                      | • Highball Cars                      |
| • Barr Family Foundation        | • Intrepid Travel                    |
| • Blaze Your Trail              | • Jack Brockhoff Foundation          |
| • Blueprint                     | • JCDecaux                           |
| • Chain Reaction                | • JC Displays                        |
| • City of Kingston              | • Madame Flavour                     |
| • City of Melbourne             | • Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation |
| • Cleanaway                     | • Newsboys Foundation                |
| • Commonwealth Bank             | • Nigel & Patricia Peck Foundation   |
| • Department of Social Services | • Peanut Productions                 |
| • Donate to Create              | • Pinchapoo                          |
| • Engine                        | • QMS                                |
| • Ferndale Foods Australia      | • Shout for Good                     |
| • Eldon and Anne Foote Trust    | • Smartways                          |
| • GIVIT                         | • Sustainability Victoria            |
| • Gripperz                      | • WISE Employment                    |
| • Hansen Little Foundation      |                                      |





# BRAINWAVE

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



Principal Partner

Get in touch:

1300 766 819 | [admin@brainwave.org.au](mailto:admin@brainwave.org.au)



@brainwaveaus  
[brainwave.org.au](http://brainwave.org.au)

