



Annual Report 2019/20

A passion for connecting our community



BRAINWAVE

Supporting children with
neurological conditions

Brainwave Values



Our Vision

To reduce the impact of paediatric neurological conditions on children and their families.



Our Mission

To provide practical assistance and emotional support to children with neurological conditions as well as their families and carers to positively impact their quality of life.



Our Values

Core values are the guiding principles that dictate the behaviour and action of Brainwave, these values are at the heart of everything we do. Brainwave's core values are:

Be respectful: We will treat all people with dignity, fairness, compassion and respect.

Be caring: We will ensure that we approach people and issues with sensitivity, confidentiality and care.

Be inclusive: We are welcoming to all and offer assistance without prejudice.

Be positive: We have a positive and uplifting approach and seek to engender a sense of hope and purpose in all we meet.

Be community minded: We will foster cooperative relationships in the community to deliver on our promise to Brainwave families.



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Principal Partner





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At the point of diagnosis when your world is turned upside down... a random act of kindness can quickly bring a big smile to a child's face."

Message from the CEO and Chair



"This year, I have tried really hard to catch up at school after the operations I've had."

"I am walking better and can stand upright."

"I am brave."

These are just some of the reasons why our Brainwave kids are proud of themselves. We are as well.

Achieving these wins and other small acts all build towards the life changing impact that we aim to achieve at Brainwave. This year that impact has translated to providing access to a new wheel chair, a trip to Luna Park, getting a hug from Lukey Bear or just coming home to your own bed. With each act, Brainwave aims to make each day a better day for children with neurological disorders.

By taking it day by day, we aim to give these children and their families a better life.

This year has seen many of our family activities cancelled either due to bushfires or COVID-19. Against that backdrop we have continued to provide our core services while also creating targeted resources and services to connect and support children and families in our community during these unprecedented times. Staying safe at home has been tremendously important for many of our families, with most caring for a child considered "medically complex" with health conditions that place them at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 than other children. From the outset, finding ways to keep connecting, sharing and supporting families to navigate this new normal has been of paramount importance during the last half of the year.

Our staff demonstrated amazing resilience and flexibility enabling operational continuity, ensuring families were able to access emergency accommodation, funding for equipment or in-hospital support as needed. Every member of the team has been tireless in their commitment and passion to supporting the Brainwave community, going above and beyond as they also navigated these very challenging times with their families.



Following our last AGM we farewelled some Brainwave Board members. Trent Brooks as out-going Chairman; Patricia Collette a past Chair and member of the Fundraising and Marketing subcommittee; and general Board members Neal Kearney, Paul Gordon, and JP Whitbread. All contributed greatly to providing governance and fiscal management of Brainwave Australia. We welcomed Karen te Lintelo and Nic Cox to the Board and have appreciated the commitment they have made to ensuring we remain a stable and viable entity through what has been a challenging year, ensuring we can continue to meet the needs of families seeking our support.

Brainwave's strategic planning was last undertaken some years ago and, in this ever changing and challenging environment, it is essential that we review that work and look to identifying new opportunities to focus our capacity to meet the needs of our families whilst being cognizant of the challenges in raising the much needed funds to deliver on the strategy. So, we will be commencing that work in the upcoming year and look forward to reporting against that in our next annual report.

We remain focused on delivering the best possible impact for our families while continuing to carefully manage the financial impact of the pandemic.

The coming together of our community during these challenging times has been tremendously moving, we would not be able to continue our work without your generosity and support. To our volunteers, donors, corporate and community partners, Principal Partner Mercedes Benz Cars and staff, thank you for your ongoing commitment to meeting the needs of the families and children we support. To our families, especially to those inaugural members of our Parents Advisory Group, thank you for your willingness to share your journey with us. It is a great compliment to the strength of our community that initiatives such as Parents Connect and other online social activities strengthened available support during a very challenging time.

The wellbeing of our children, families, team, partners and the broader community will continue to be our priority and looking ahead, there are many opportunities to strengthen and continue supporting small wins each day to make children's lives better.

Regards,

Dr Amy Timoshanko CEO

Karen Passey Chair



Brainwave *Family Programs*

Brainwave's programs provide practical assistance and emotional support to children with neurological conditions as well as their families and carers to positively impact their quality of life. On average more than 11 children are diagnosed with a brain illness or injury every day in Australia. In 2019/20 we focused on our major programs while adding new ways of reaching children and families across Australia.



Catch-A-Break Program

Families often experience significant financial strain when faced with unexpected, ongoing costs associated with a child's long term hospital stay. This situation was further complicated in 2020 due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on accommodation and dining.

Brainwave works in consultation with hospital social workers to ensure that disadvantaged families have access to urgent financial support.

In 2019/20 Brainwave provided assistance with emergency accommodation for families traveling outside of metropolitan areas. Additional support was also made available via the Children's Hospital Network including Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick and The Children's Hospital at Westmead. Meal and beverage vouchers were also distributed to those in need, enabling families to 'Catch-A-Break'.

Camp Brainwave

Camp Brainwave is a 2.5 day residential camp for families who have a child with a neurological condition.

These camps were developed as part of Brainwave's Care Program. At Camp Brainwave families enjoy an all-inclusive weekend away filled with fun, games and activities for all ages and abilities.

Families are able to connect with one another in a safe, respectful and supportive environment, and the camps are particularly valuable for siblings who get the opportunity to meet lots of kids with families just like their own.



Equipment & Therapies Program

This valuable program assists Brainwave children with their recovery by providing specialist equipment and access to allied health therapies.

In 2019/20 we have seen a significant shift towards funding for items to assist children getting home and into the community safely following a hospital discharge, and where traditional funding was not available.

We are proud to have supplied a range of equipment and therapies including:

- Adaptive Push Chair
- Modified tricycle
- Essential Hire Kit for discharge - wheelchair, shower chair, toilet frame, ramp, crutches
- DAFO (Dynamic Ankle Foot Orthoses)
- Bath hoist
- Second Skin body splint
- Occupational therapy
- Bath seats
- Hire 6 months manual wheelchair
- Rehabilitation group toys



Brainwave Parents Connect

Launched this year, Brainwave Parents Connect was a new initiative to create open and on-going dialogue between Brainwave families. Brainwave has a long history of connecting families, and being the catalyst to parents forming lasting friendships, now Parents Connect provides this same opportunity – from home.

At a time when COVID-19 could have severely impacted parent's ability to meet and connect with others, Parents Connect offered a supportive online meeting place for parents to come together to discuss their ideas, feelings, and thoughts.

After inception the group grew quickly creating a lot of discussion, and connecting with others to share similar experiences. Although we are facing many new challenges, our Brainwave family network continues to come together, share experiences, and grow.





Kids Fun Activities

Sharing experiences and creating the opportunity for our Brainwave kids to connect, be included and have some fun is fundamental to our purpose.

Some of the fun activities delivered in 2019/20 included our birthday club, the ever popular Kids and Sibs Day at Kids in Motion and various 'join in at home' initiatives developed to support families as they stayed safely at home.

Developed in response to the COVID-19 restrictions, these interactive sessions included live streamed music therapy and a series of kids on-line discos tailored for the enjoyment of our Brainwave children and their siblings.

In difficult times these new activities proved the flexibility of Brainwave to always focus on providing opportunities for our children.

Brainwave Christmas Parties

Our Christmas parties are a highly valued time for our communities in Victoria and New South Wales to connect, celebrate and make wonderful memories.

Held at Luna Park, Brainwave's Christmas Parties are a special day out for families. Children can participate in a range of festive activities including a Santa meet and greet, face painting, letter writing, photo opportunities and of course, amusement park rides. Brainwave's Christmas parties bring families together to share in the magic of Christmas.



Bear Essentials Program

Brainwave's Bear Essentials Program supports families by providing care packs distributed through hospitals.

We are delighted to announce that in 2019/20 the Bear Essentials Program was active in hospitals across five states.

Packs were supplied to major hospitals including:

- The Royal Children's Hospital
- Monash Children's Hospital
- The Children's Hospital at Westmead
- Sydney Children's Hospital
- Women's and Children's Hospital SA
- Perth Children's Hospital
- The Royal Hobart Hospital



Small things can be life changing and until you've lived this life, of caring for a child with additional needs you don't realise how beneficial the small thing can be, such as having access to a piece of equipment or a hotel room. These can change lives. It might seem small but to our families it so big".

Meet *Marta*

Marta is a sweet little 9 year old girl with cerebral palsy, intractable epilepsy, and is legally blind.

Her giggles bring joy to everyone around her.

Marta loves listening to orchestral music, bird songs, and reading bedtime stories with her older brother.

To control her epilepsy and decrease the frequency of life threatening seizures, Marta is restricted to a special nutrition diet called KetoCal, which is extremely costly.

Together with her rehabilitation team, Marta's parents reached out to Brainwave. Through our Essential Equipment and Therapy Program, Brainwave has made it possible for Marta to continue with her ketogenic regime and keep her epilepsy under control.

The family would have a major difficulty purchasing KetoCal in the months ahead if not for Brainwave's support.

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As parents, we have our child's best interests at heart, and it is difficult to realize that, despite our best efforts, we cannot provide our daughter with everything she needs at this time.

This makes us deeply thankful for Brainwave's support of our family and other families like ours.”



Our Corporate Partners & Sponsors *Supporting Families*

In 2019/20 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 Cars Australia

Mercedes-Benz Cars Australia has supported Brainwave's efforts for over eight years by providing a generous partnership grant, and their staff, retailers and customers have supported our Brainwave families through:

- Fundraising at dealer golf days
- 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
- Events at Mercedes me

Corporate Partners



Trusts & Foundations

Westpac Foundation
Yoga Aid Fund
Willam Angliss Trust Fund
Barr Foundation
Lord Mayors Charitable Fund
Angior Family Foundation
Boncal Family Foundation
The Erridge Family
Fairways Golf Foundation

Community partners

Kids in Motion
Lord Somers Camp
PowerHouse
Ready Set
Variety
Mirabel
Little Dreamers
Big Brother Big Sister
First Step
Melbourne Ladies Committee
The Royal Children's Hospital
Monash Children's Hospital
The Children's Hospital at Westmead
Sydney Children's Hospital
Women's and Children's Hospital SA
Perth Children's Hospital
The Royal Hobart Hospital



Financial Report

Results for year ended 30 June 2020

Each year, Brainwave prepares a full set of accounts which are independently audited by BDO, located at Level 18, 727 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria and lodged with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission. Our statutory accounts are available on request from the Brainwave office.

Brainwave, like all charities, has experienced a challenging year. This is particularly true in the second half, with the onset of COVID-19 pandemic, which significantly impacted the organization's ability to hold fundraising events and provide family support events. Government assistance enabled the organization to deliver a result in line with the prior year and we were able to maintain a good level of direct funding to families, distributing \$108,637 compared to \$183,228 for the previous year.

Program and service expenses relate to the cost of delivery of our support services to children and include equipment and therapies, hospital liaison, family care program activities and an interactive website for Brainwave families.

Summary of results for year ended 30 June 2020:

Total revenue:

\$703,180

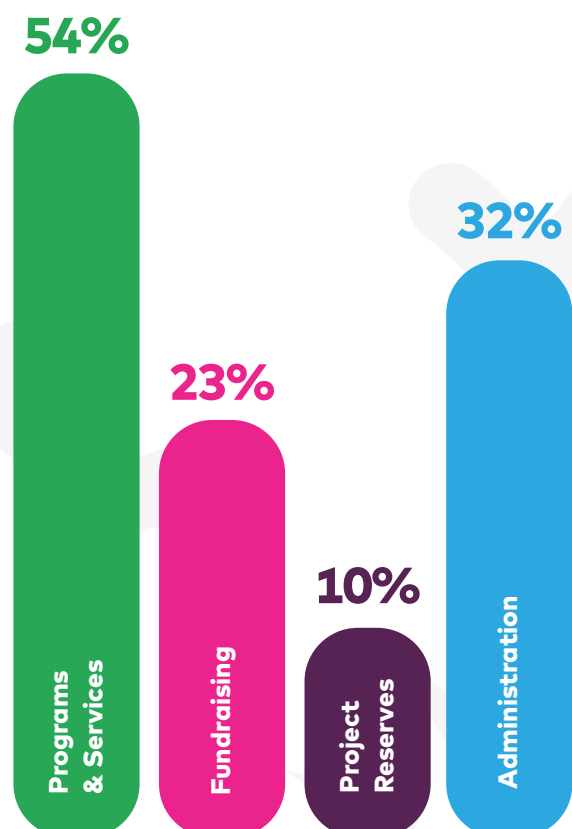
Fundraising expenses:

\$133,372

Program & service expenditure:

\$303,867

Allocation of funds raised 2019 - 2020:





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Principal Partner

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