



FILLING

HEARTS

Annual Report
2022

CONTENTS

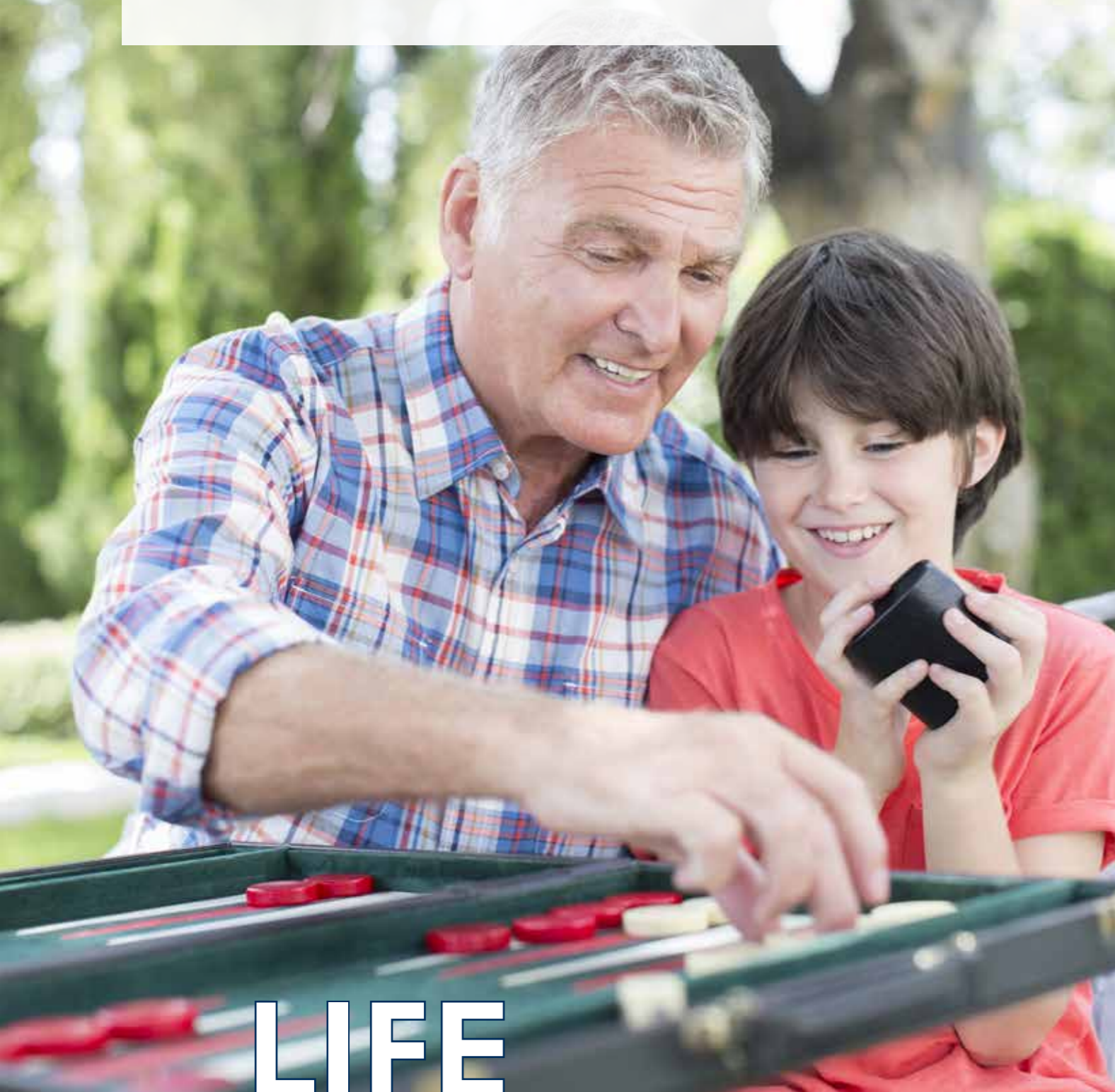
Chair's Report	3
CEO's Report	4
Program Report	6
Evaluation Report	8
Financial Report	12
Our Board	14
Our Partners	15



“ It's hard to
fill a child's mind
when their heart is empty,
and **Kids Hope** mentors
fill **HEARTS** ”



Kids Hope is looking at innovations enabling sustainable ways to engage with more mentors for more children.



LIFE CHANGING

CHAIR'S REPORT

It is a privilege that most Australians enjoy. Most, but not all.

That is, to receive encouragement and kindle hope for a bright future. Education that produces knowledge and skills can be relied on as a foundation for making good life choices, as well as the emergence of a stable and fulfilling career and relationships. But some of our children do not get enough hope and encouragement for that education to take root. Nor does it grow strong enough to give them confidence for a bright future.

That's why Kids Hope exists. That why Kids Hope is so important. Every year, primary schools recommend hundreds of children to Kids Hope. They know they need some extra investment - one caring mentor for one hour per week to believe in them and convey their worth and potential. They do this by showing interest, being present, and by being a good, safe listener. It sounds simple... and it is. But the impact on each child most often has a life-changing benefit.

This past year I have heard first-hand stories of changed lives from children who were mentored through Kids Hope and whose success and positive life experiences in their 20's are celebrated. Parents so often are amazed and so thankful. Many children who were mentored are now young adults contributing positively to their community, workplaces and friends. They often express genuine and heartfelt thanks that a stranger believed in them, invested time to listen, encouraged and befriended them. And, helped them think through some early life decisions.

Mentors have also relayed to me similar unprompted personal stories of hope from around the nation. This report shares some of those real, life-giving stories for you to take to heart.

Read how Gail Cameron, CEO, and the Kids Hope team, have dedicated themselves once again to carry this hope into the lives of deserving but vulnerable children. We are so grateful for them and to the broader Kids Hope community. To our mentors, churches and coordinators, school staff, advocates, patrons and ambassador - thank you. To our sponsors and donors, for your generous resourcing - we cannot do this without you. Thank you to our dedicated board once again for your generous, wise guidance and governance. This level of teamwork throughout the community overflows with such important purpose. We are grateful for each of you - for your heart of love and generosity investing in the tomorrow of these children, today.

Yes - this past year has been tough. Reports show that despair and depression have been on the rise in Australian primary schools. As a result it has been emotionally taxing for carers, mentors, our team and school staff as they have supported children and adults struggling to outlast the pandemic and restore positive balance and hope. This makes hope, the antidote through Kids Hope, sorely needed, now more than ever. This makes the board and Kids Hope leadership more determined to grow and serve emerging generations. This is why we value your support.

Kids Hope is looking at innovations enabling sustainable ways to engage with more mentors for more children. Our research provides strong, evidence-based data that Kids Hope mentoring delivers sustained value that warrants even greater investment. This includes the economic and relational benefit to communities as well. Could the future generation of healthy well-adjusted children be more important and purpose-filled than right now?

Why not consider being one of those mentors serving a child in your local community? Or a Kids Hope Community Fundraiser, Coordinator or Donor?

At Kids Hope we believe in hope for every child. Come and join us!

John Allison
Chair

CEO'S REPORT

In the face of another challenging year in the world around us, the Kids Hope vision, "hope in the life of every child", remains strong in the hearts of staff, volunteers, supporters, and communities.

We experienced the incredible power of communities working together for the sake of children. We experienced young lives transformed and empowered, and communities impacted as a result.

We facilitated 29 new partnerships between primary schools and their local church bringing consistent support and care to an additional 175 kids experiencing vulnerability. Nearly 1400 kids this year were met with consistent support from caring Kids Hope mentors bringing a much-needed sense that they matter!

A heart for kids, and a vision for hope and transformation, drive the passion that keeps mentors turning up for their kids, keeps generosity fuelling our work, and inspires the team to work devotedly.

This passion is incredibly important as the urgency to reach a young generation at risk remains. We are dedicated to empowering kids through mentoring, bringing hope in the life of every child because all kids deserve hope! I was inspired this year by a school wellbeing professional who shared this with me:

"It's hard to fill a child's mind when their heart is empty, and Kids Hope mentors fill hearts."

Wow, what a statement and so true!

Our evaluation results demonstrate just this. We've dedicated several pages in this report, to sharing quotes so that you can capture a glimpse of how hearts are transformed through mentoring. From speaking for the first time in school to becoming a school captain, Kids Hope mentors fill hearts, making way for all kinds of opportunities big and small!

Gratitude fills my heart as I think about the dedication demonstrated by Kids Hope volunteers, staff and supporters over the past year. There have been considerable challenges to overcome yet hope for kids has driven your support for those who need you now more than ever.

On behalf of the nearly 1400 kids who have benefitted from the strength of your care, dedication and generosity this year, I say thank you. Nearly 1400 kids now have hope and joy this year thanks to you!

Gail Cameron
CEO

TRANSFORMED & EMPOWERED



We experienced the incredible power of communities working together for the sake of children.

PROGRAM REPORT

More than two years since the initial impact of Covid, Kids Hope has remained steadfast in its determination to empower vulnerable Aussie kids to thrive.

In a year of mixed responses to a national crisis, schools were varied in their ability to allow Kids Hope mentors onto school grounds. As such, support for our volunteer base was critical. Our ability to pivot and respond to such a need clearly demonstrated the agility of our program and the strength of the Kids Hope team.

Each week hundreds of program support calls were made to coordinators, mentors, pastors, chaplains and wellbeing staff to demonstrate care, encourage determination and establish capacity. It was with this support that many of our programs continued despite a year of inconsistency.

Where schools remained open, face-to-face mentoring continued. And where not, with permission, many of

our mentors persisted by using our Pen Pal and Online Mentoring resources. This enabled consistent care despite the inability to meet face-to-face with their mentor children.

Covid has taken its toll on our school kids. The Australian Human Rights Commission stated recently that nearly 1 in 5 children feel more scared, worried and depressed since Covid.* Thankfully, Kids Hope continued to be part of the solution.

According to Harvard University, the single most common influence on children developing resilience through adversity, is at least one stable and committed relationship with a supportive adult.**

During this tumultuous time, Kids Hope mentors have often been that stable and committed relationship.

Likewise, it has been through the stable and committed care of the extended Kids Hope community, that is our

staff, our church and school partners, the board, and our broader supporters, that our mentors have been able to continue filling hearts and building resilience in their mentor children.

Our Evaluation Report (page 8) clearly articulates the impact of our program through the vital input of our mentors. And although this last year has been an interesting journey of twists and turns, it has only made us more determined to consolidate and expand our program so that more hearts can be filled through life transforming one-to-one mentoring.

Lou Fogg
Operations

* <https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/childrens-rights/publications/mental-health-shapes-my-life-covid-19-kids-wellbeing-2022>

** <https://developingchild.harvard.edu/science/key-concepts/resilience/>

Here's some of what our mentors said.



"The improvement in his reading skills has resulted in improved confidence... an improvement in his self esteem, and acceptance within the class."

"He has overcome bullying hassles through his own self assertiveness."



"The mother tells me how much the child enjoys our Tuesdays and the child tells me I'm her best friend ever! I encouraged her art which has helped her self esteem."

"Just having a friend seems to be the most important thing to her."



"She has grown more confident and outgoing. She loved the pen pal contact (packages and letters I sent)."

"She knows there's someone there for her."



"It helped him get through the COVID lockdowns. It gave him something to look forward to."

"Maintaining the regular contact through lockdowns has made this neglected child feel valuable."

YEAR AT A GLANCE

 **55,120**

HOURS INVESTED
into the lives of vulnerable children

 **1,378**

COMMITTED VOLUNTEERS
serving in their local communities

 **222**

KIDS HOPE PROGRAMS
making an impact

STABLE & COMMITTED

EVALUATION REPORT

Once again our evaluation survey feedback indicated the positive impact one-to-one mentoring had on vulnerable children despite the on-off nature of mentoring throughout the pandemic.

Additionally, schools and volunteers remained positive of Kids Hope and were highly motivated to see programs that were placed on hold due to Covid restrictions, reinstated at the earliest convenience. For those programs fortunate enough to continue through the year, the impact remained encouraging.

With 84.82% of mentors stating they had seen positive impact on the health and wellbeing of their mentor child, this is a clear demonstration of the extraordinary impact of our program. Equally encouraging is that 93.56% of mentors believe they also benefitted from being a mentor.

However, it isn't just the mentor children and mentors that benefit from our program. Mentors have confidently shared that families, teachers, welfare staff, school leadership and peers all benefitted from Kids Hope. As one mentor said, "The Principal is very keen for us to be there and also the chaplain, both are very supportive of the program. The chaplain's case load has been eased because of children having mentors." This mentor also went on to say, "The program has eased the mind of the family who were concerned about her anxiety."

YEAR AT A GLANCE

87.5%



Mentors said that they had a strong positive bond with their mentor child

Mentors said they were a good match with their mentor child



93.18%

84.82%



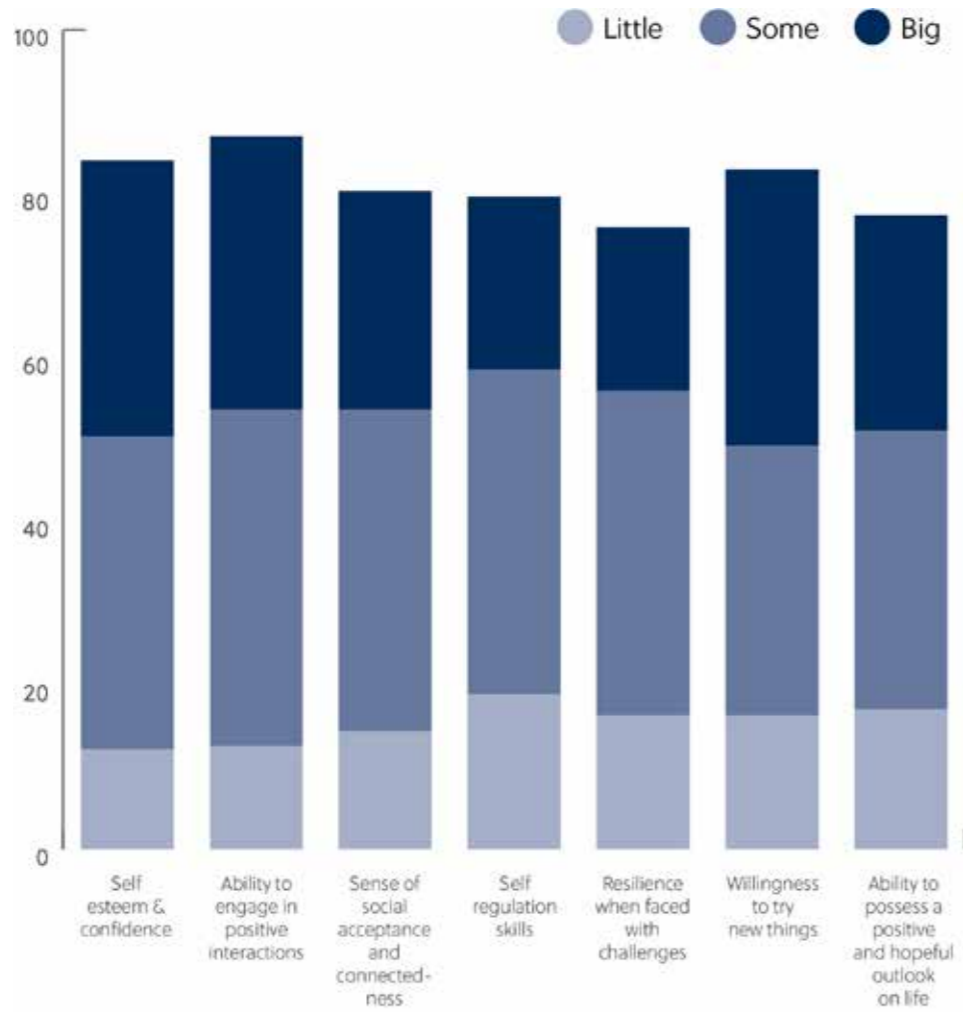
Mentors said that one to one mentoring had a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of the mentor child



The ripple effect of this program is a continual encouragement to all that are involved. Please take a moment to read the positive feedback from the broader community (opposite).

These stories along with the data collected, clearly demonstrated that when mentors invested their time into vulnerable children, we saw transformation. This is despite the tumultuous effect of Covid, so imagine the potential for change in the future!

Mentor Evaluation - Observed improvement in mentored child:



Additional to our annual, internal evaluation, Kids Hope invests in external evaluation audits. The Monash Report articulates our key strengths and provides statistics regarding improved wellbeing of children specific to the program. Click on the link (right) to read the Monash report.

It is through these external, evidence-based reports, along with the internal evaluations outlined above, and ongoing program support feedback, that continuous improvement of the Kids Hope program is possible.

* <https://kidshope.org.au/documents/item/104>



MENTOR AND CHURCH

"The joy it gave me every week seeing my child. I felt like I was the one who benefited most."

"I feel that it gives me a chance to be in a school community and do something positive."

"Helps keep me focussed and able to use my skill sets in retirement."

"We have a wonderful group of mentors and the school just wants more. We have a great relationship with the school and the church is seen as a vital part of the school community."



CLASS AND SCHOOL

"My mentor child has learned to play by the rules, take turns and not take over a game. This has enabled him to fit in and make friends."

"The deputy principal has many a wonderful word to encourage me each week. I love her supportive words."

"I have enjoyed being able to help the child improve academically, as they could hardly read."

"He is a lot happier - his teacher has commented on the improvement of his behaviour and he is excited on mentor days."



FAMILY AND FRIENDS

"The mother has advised me (via the chaplain) that my child sees me in a grandfatherly sense and that he loves me as such."

"My mentee has a disabled brother and so I feel that her mother appreciates the one-on-one contact that her daughter receives."

"My child's relationship with his father has improved."

"The family as a whole has benefited from the program through the involvement of three mentors with three siblings. Mum appears much more positive and more able to cope with day-to-day life."

THE RIPPLE EFFECT

FINANCIAL REPORT

Kids Hope has maintained financial strength throughout 2022. Steady revenue and a continued effort to minimise expenses resulted in a healthy bottom line. The strong result positions us well for the new financial year. This is especially important given the mounting financial pressure due to the economic downturn.

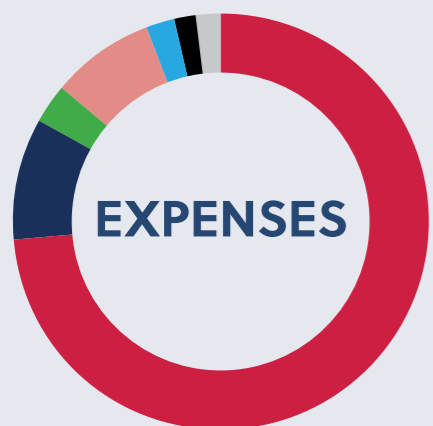
Our hybrid approach to working between home and office has meant that our part-time staff office requirements have reduced. This made it possible to shift to a shared office arrangement which translates to a 40% reduction in office expenses and general overheads.

Measures to manage our current situation aside, we maintain a strong focus on growth, compelled by the vision of more mentors, more schools, more partner churches and more children experiencing real hope! To this end we are always looking for new partners and generous donors who share our passion for effective community engagement.

The generosity of faithful donors has meant that Kids Hope has continued to support communities in serving vulnerable kids through mentoring. The need continues to grow but so does our heart to reach kids and communities with consistent care, joy and hope. None of this would be possible without the generosity of our supporters so thank you for another year of faithful generosity. We couldn't do what we do without you!



Affiliation & Training Fees	\$177,391
Grants	\$287,500
Donations & Fundraising	\$216,755
Investment Income	\$5,100



Program Support & Growth	\$398,418
Professional Fees	\$50,274
Rental	\$16,626
Administration	\$43,403
Uncollected Debt	\$11,634
Promotion & Travel	\$9,628
Other	\$9,807



MEETING THE NEED

Kids Hope is fortunate to have many talented professionals serving in various roles. They are passionate, generous specialists who give their time freely to broaden the impact of the Kids Hope program.

Please take a moment to get to know our extended team!

OUR BOARD



JOHN ALLISON, CHAIRMAN
Chairman of LogicalTech Group and Company Director in IT and NFP sectors



GAIL CAMERON, CEO



BELINDA LOKE, SECRETARY
Founder, Managing Director & Principal Lawyer of Legalexa



JOHN ALTMANN
Lawyer, Anglican Minister & Social Entrepreneur



PATRICK PARKINSON
Professor of Law, University of Queensland

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

We are always on the lookout for talented professionals. If you or your organisation would like to support Kids Hope by volunteering your service, please contact Gail Cameron, CEO, at admin@kidshope.org.au

GOVERNANCE & PARTNERSHIPS

OUR PATRONS



REV TIM COSTELLO AO

Rev Tim Costello AO was the CEO of World Vision for 10 years and as Kids Hope moved into an era of independence, Tim's personal interest and belief in the program inspired him to agree to be the patron of Kids Hope. We appreciate Tim's commitment to represent the Kids Hope cause as he travels extensively and communicates to a far-reaching audience of influential leaders, community representatives and people with a passion to make a difference.



MARYLIN LEERMAKERS

It was through Marilyn Leermakers' vision that the Kids Hope program transitioned from World Vision to a separate entity. Marilyn has always been passionate and dedicated to the cause and willing to go 'beyond the call of duty'. Marilyn worked tirelessly to provide Kids Hope with a wonderful platform, with exemplary quality assurance and a proven reputation that will continue to develop and expand long into the future.

OUR AMBASSADOR



LISA MCINNES-SMITH

We are privileged to have Lisa McInnes-Smith as our Kids Hope Ambassador. Lisa is an international speaker and Hall of Fame presenter and has presented to more than two million adults across twenty-six countries. She is also the author of seven best-selling books. Lisa's heart for children and communities is inspiring and we are thrilled to have her representing Kids Hope and promoting the many benefits to schools and churches.

OUR PARTNERS

Kids Hope would like to sincerely thank the following organisations for their partnership. Their contribution and support are invaluable and we look forward to continuing our relationships with them as we continue to expand our program throughout Australia.





THE OPPORTUNITY

As a not-for-profit community organisation, Kids Hope relies on assistance to effectively impact the lives of thousands of children across Australia. Our one-to-one mentoring is provided free of charge to all schools. Your generosity will support this life-changing mentoring and empower Aussie kids to thrive.

DONATE

For \$300 you can sponsor a child with mentoring for a year. That's less than \$1 a day!
For \$3000 you can sponsor a school with mentoring for a year. That's just over \$8 a day!
Donating is simple – you can **click or transfer**.

CLICK
<https://kidshope.org.au/donations/thrive-through-challenge/thriving-through-challenge>

TRANSFER
Kids Hope Aus Ltd
BSB 033-002
Account number 797472

Donations over \$2 are tax deductible in Australia.

VOLUNTEER

Kids Hope does not run on donations alone. Hundreds of people give generously of their time and talents. If you would like to contribute in this way, please visit our website to find out how you can be involved: <https://kidshope.org.au>

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP

We are proud to collaborate with other like-minded organisations to empower vulnerable kids and communities to thrive. Our Corporate Sponsorship Package has several ways in which you can collaborate. Email Gail Cameron at admin@kidshope.org.au to find out how you can become a HOPE SPONSOR today.



Kids Hope is a not-for-profit community organisation which is partially funded by the generous donations from supporters.



FIND OUT MORE



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