



HOPE

IN THE LIFE OF EVERY CHILD

Annual Report
2021

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EMPOWERING

AUSSIE KIDS TO THRIVE



We are encouraged by the mentors who love, listen and believe in children, knowing it will make a life changing difference.

CHAIR'S REPORT

In a year none of us expected or have previously experienced, 2021 has been anything but "life as usual." The deficits we are aware of include loss of opportunity and work, loss of security, loss of freedom, and loss of connection with friends and family. But the underlying deficit affecting most people in Australia is the loss of hope across all sectors of our community. At Kids Hope we remain committed to bringing hope to children in primary schools who experience some form of disadvantage. But this year especially, it remains critical to remind ourselves of all that is positive and good, and all that is worthy and brings hope. And there is so much that reminds us to be filled with hope.

We are encouraged every time we think of you ...

Kids who acknowledge they need some kind attention, someone who believes in them and someone to just be there as an anchor who listens and cares. Their humility and trust in the mentor, is a great opening for a purpose filled life. For so many primary school age kids in our communities, life is tough much of the time. Unfortunately, schooling and life under COVID-19 lockdowns and isolation has been significantly tougher as time has extended, and normal social development effectively curtailed or stopped. However, even with these headwinds, we find that hope, resilience, and strength can develop, especially in an atmosphere of encouragement. The kids who really flourish somehow find an encourager who believes in them.

We are encouraged every time we think of you ...

Mentors who love, listen and believe in children, knowing it will make a life changing difference. Ordinary people who give time and attention to these young people often play a crucial role in the positive life change of an emerging adult. The ongoing impact of which is hard to measure. The heroes of the Kids Hope vision are our mentors, who through availability, love and listening, are bearers of hope in the lives of vulnerable children. They are the encouragers who change lives.

We are encouraged every time we think of you ...

Our Kids Hope leaders, staff and volunteers inspired by our tireless and focussed CEO Gail Cameron, continue to serve with generosity, faithfulness and integrity to facilitate both churches and schools right across Australia. Your efforts bring hope and dreams to life and are well worthwhile. This year we have experienced a season of change across the team as new opportunities and careers have come to fruition. We have also been joined by gifted and dedicated staff who have embarked on a new season to serve with Kids Hope. We express heartfelt thanks to those who served so well the vision of Kids Hope and have moved on. And we extend a heartfelt welcome to our new staff and volunteers who will carry our vision forward in this next season. During this year the Board have served and guided Kids Hope with wisdom and diligence in partnership with Gail and the Kids Hope team. We really appreciate the great contribution from every Board member and have been sad to farewell Leigh Hatcher recently.

We are encouraged every time we think of you ...

Our faithful and generous donors and supporters who continue to invest in the strengthening and multiplication of our service to children throughout Australia. Without your generosity and encouragement that enables our team and volunteers to sustain and grow Kids Hope we would be significantly constrained and far more limited in spreading hope in the lives of children and mentors.

Every now and then a surprising initiative unexpectedly emerges. This year it was the Kids and Champions Tour. This initiative, led by Wayne Butcher, son of one of our long-term Victorian mentors, has pioneered many new opportunities. The original plan was to circumnavigate Australia in a helicopter, raising awareness and bringing hope into vulnerable communities. Unfortunately, due to lockdowns, the tour was restricted to Queensland. However, we have been so encouraged by Wayne and his team. They have blessed Kids Hope by raising awareness and much needed funding despite the restrictions. Their generous commitment and courageous innovation has been profound. If you haven't yet seen their videos highlighting children's stories across indigenous and suburban communities, make a point of taking a look.

Kids Hope remains strong as an organisation and a partner in facilitating hope in the life of every child. One heart at a time. Thank you for your part in our vision and passion to change young lives through mentors that care. So, just as we are encouraged and rekindle our hope, we trust that your hope will also remain strong and glow brightly in the years ahead.

John Allison
Chair

CEO'S REPORT

This year has been filled with challenge though anchored by favour and hope. Whilst the global pandemic continued, amazing things unfolded, demonstrating a sense of strong favour over Kids Hope, the children mentored and communities supported. This favour came in the form of extraordinary people, partnerships, generosity and HOPE. Here are just a few examples...

EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE

We were privileged to welcome Lisa McInnes-Smith, international speaker and Hall of Fame presenter, as our inaugural Kids Hope Ambassador. Lisa's heart for children and communities is inspiring and her enthusiasm contagious. We're thrilled to have her representing Kids Hope and promoting the many benefits to schools and churches.

EXTRAORDINARY PARTNERSHIPS

Kids Hope is partnering with Australian Christian Churches (ACC) nationally through their partnership with NAYBA. ACC is referring to Kids Hope as the 'flagship project' in the NAYBA community engagement menu. Kids Hope was on display at the 2021 ACC National Conference and will continue to work with NAYBA and ACC to transform communities across Australia.

EXTRAORDINARY GENEROSITY

Wayne Butcher, inspired by his mum, 15-year Kids Hope mentor, Ruth Butcher, set off on a community fundraising adventure of a lifetime! He set out to circumnavigate Australia by helicopter to raise awareness and funds for Kids Hope. Wayne was confronted by heart-wrenching stories of disadvantage and hardship as he brought messages of hope from the community to the beautiful children he visited. The result... over 500 people supported Wayne, funding 340 children with mentoring for a year.

EXTRAORDINARY HOPE

We experienced many amazing stories of hope. Like Jayden, a young boy, whose father moved away taking his brother and leaving him behind with his mother. Soon after his mother fell ill and passed away. At the funeral, Jayden wouldn't leave the side of a woman with whom there was an obvious and strong bond. She wasn't a family member, a teacher or a family friend. She was his Kids Hope mentor! In his darkest moment, he turned to his Kids Hope mentor of only five months. She offered him what he needed most... a consistent presence and hope!

We're incredibly thankful to Jayden's mentor and the hundreds of other Kids Hope mentors who show consistent care one hour a week bringing confidence, resilience and hope to children. We're also so grateful to our dedicated staff, volunteers, coordinators, board members, patrons, advocates, ambassador, and those who support spiritually and financially. Thank you for your contribution in bringing hope to children and communities across Australia!

Gail Cameron
CEO



We want to be a church that tangibly reaches out to our community. That's why we chose Kids Hope. We understand that if you can help a child, you can help a family and make a difference in the community.



Pastor Wayne Alcorn
ACC National President

PARTNER



Programs that start strong, stay strong.

PROGRAM REPORT

This year our mission has remained steadfast... to connect local primary schools and churches for one-to-one mentoring of children experiencing vulnerability. Despite the complexities, we have strived towards this purpose and our program strategy has prevailed. Our key deliverables of vision, value and resource have remained paramount.

VISION

Despite restricted access to schools, our monthly Dose of Hope continued to inspire the Kids Hope community with current, real-life stories from our dedicated volunteers. Additionally, our annual event, with keynote presenters, Rev Tim Costello AO and Lisa McInnes-Smith, raised much awareness through their visionary story telling.

VALUE

Although we recognise the contributions of all volunteers at our annual event, we specifically honoured three volunteers with our Hope Awards. You can read about these extraordinary recipients on pages 14 and 15 of this annual report.

Additionally, our expanded program support team provided much needed encouragement to coordinators. We never take their contribution for granted and this was clearly articulated through the hundreds of personalised phone calls made throughout this difficult year. Finally, our detailed evaluations and surveys continued to provide valuable feedback for ongoing improvements.

RESOURCE

Our goal has been to continuously improve our resources for coordinators and mentors. This was evidenced in several, key areas:

Ongoing support for the Pen Pal Program

The Pen Pal Program continues to shine as an example of creative mentoring. It was enthusiastically implemented in those states with restricted access. It continues to provide a simple solution to maintaining relationships with mentor children. Opportunities such as this provide a stabilising presence for children during the remote learning phase. Read more about its efficacy in our Evaluation Report on page 9.

Implementation of Online Mentoring

Despite the success of the Pen Pal Program during this Covid-affected season, many mentors and mentor children still needed some form of face-to-face interaction. As such, the implementation of Online Mentoring became critical. As our protocols indicate, it has been specifically designed to support the exceptional circumstances of COVID-19 restrictions. Although an opportunity for evaluation remains outstanding, we have received positive evidence of its ongoing usage.

Mentor Hour Resources

Last year we reported that we had initiated the expansion of our Mentor Hour resources. As an additional feature, this year those resources were extended to include Pen Pal and Online Mentoring. Resources are now available for each term and year level. They also cater for a variety of interests and seasonal events.

ONBOARDING PROCESS

Programs that start strong, stay strong. This is the premise that guided our decision to invest additional support into the critical onboarding period. As a result, we have had much positive feedback of how vision, value and resourcing have been addressed with new programs.

THE IMPACT

A significant highlight for Kids Hope has been the strong impact statistics despite a year of continued hurdles. Our program support team have worked tirelessly to ensure programs have stayed strong. With over 250 programs still firing strong, we invested over 65,000 hours into the lives of vulnerable children. All in all, we are pleased with the impact the Kids Hope program has continued to provide, especially considering 'the year that was!'

Lou Fogg
Operations

2021 AT A GLANCE

 **65,520**

HOURS INVESTED

into the lives of vulnerable children

 **1,638**

COMMITTED MENTORS

serving in their local communities

 **250**

KIDS HOPE PROGRAMS

making an impact

\$1,911,218*

GIFTED TO SCHOOLS

in the form of free
one-to-one mentoring.

*nominal hourly rate x hours invested

IMPACT



The mentors' consistent writing provided a highlight for the children each week. These letters were an anchor of certainty and a source of encouragement for children who really needed hope.

EVALUATION REPORT

Despite a year, yet again characterised by uncertainty, the Kids Hope Pen Pal initiative was enthusiastically rolled out across the states. This well-received initiative was created to step into the gap created by the temporary suspension of face-to-face mentoring due to COVID-19 restrictions. The program aimed to provide an opportunity for mentors to continue supporting their mentored children via the various state education department's online portals.

The feedback, in response to our evaluation survey, demonstrated the unwavering support of the Kids Hope schools. The schools' high regard for Kids Hope and the support of the school leadership were significant factors that have contributed to the successful implementation of the Pen Pal Program.

"The Vice Principal of the school was excellent at coordinating the program and making sure that the mentor children received the emailed letters from their mentors." Mentor

Teachers and chaplains were also very responsive to the initiative and their "absolute encouragement" and "hands-on support and commitment" was highly acknowledged by many mentors.

Feedback further highlighted mentors' commitment to stay connected and demonstrated their genuine care, dedication, and compassion to their mentored child during a time of great instability for children.

"I had hardly any responses to the contacts I made, but I know she was receiving them, so felt encouraged to keep going. I believe that it is still valuable to demonstrate that I am here no matter what as a reliable person in her life." Mentor

Despite the communication being one-sided, on many occasions due to the mentor child's limited literacy skills and limited access to technology, many mentors persisted to be a beacon of hope and kept the momentum of hope in schools going strong through the Pen Pal letters.

Kids Hope prides itself in being an evidence-based program. As such, we have commissioned external audits to evaluate our program. The Monash Report clearly indicates the improved wellbeing of children and the many other key strengths of the program.

Click on the following link to read the report. <https://kidshope.org.au/about-us>

CONSISTENT

EVALUATION REPORT (CONT)

The mentors' consistent writing provided a highlight for the children each week. These letters were an anchor of certainty and a source of encouragement for children who really needed hope. This in turn enabled mentor children to feel connected and valued knowing that there was someone special thinking of them.

"After a full day of schooling, contact via emails and letters were not regularly replied to. I feel sending the child a weekly email helped them know that they were not forgotten during this isolation." Mentor

The success of the Pen Pal program can be attributed to effective leadership, organisation and communication skills of the coordinators. A few mentors stated how the church was equipped to provide practical support to children during the lockdowns. A sense of community connectedness was achieved as churches prepared and delivered care packages to mentored children as a gesture of good will.

A significant number of mentors remarked on their delight to see the receptiveness of their mentor children to their Pen Pal letters.

"My child was very receptive to Pen Pal Mentoring as demonstrated by the fact that he replied to my letters nearly every week." Mentor

The provision of Pen Pal resources by Kids Hope also served as an effective support mechanism, as some felt they were armed with ideas to engage in Pen Pal writing.

"The online activity sheets on the Kids Hope website were most helpful enabling me to contact my mentor child each week with a note and activity." Mentor

It is gratifying to witness the support from our mentors, coordinators, church and school communities in making the Kids Hope program possible during such tumultuous times.

Tehani Jayawardena
Evaluation



My child was very receptive to Pen Pal Mentoring as demonstrated by the fact that he replied to my letters nearly every week.

Mentor





This enabled mentor children to feel connected and valued knowing that there was someone special thinking of them.



CONNECT

FINANCIAL REPORT

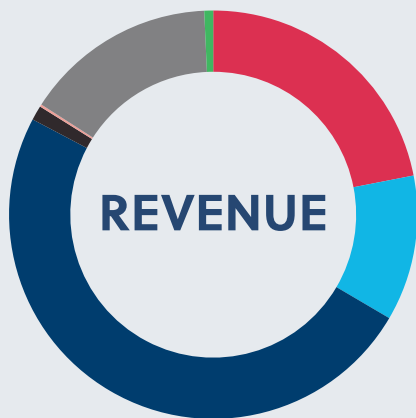
Through the generosity of supporters and an increase in successful grant programs in the 2021 financial year, Kids Hope has been able to continually provide the precious and important gift of free mentoring to children. This has all been achieved in a year where COVID-19 has continued to be challenging for face-to-face mentoring and other support activities.

Through careful stewardship of every dollar received, Kids Hope has been able to continue to maintain best practice industry standards for program quality and child safety while also exploring new initiatives.

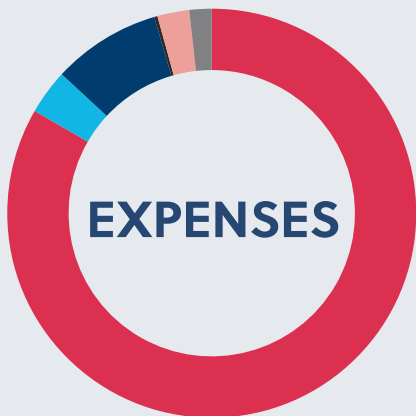
Additionally, generous support has enabled Kids Hope to build capacity to bolster strong growth and achieve our vision of hope in the life of every child.

We are thankful for the generosity of our funding partners, especially in a year where COVID-19 has brought so many challenges in different ways to each of us. The Kids Hope team appreciates your care for the community through your support of Kids Hope.


Daniel Vicino
Treasurer



Affiliation Fees	\$177,537
Donations & Fundraising	\$93,382
Grants	\$398,931
Training	\$9,400
Investment Income	\$1,510
Government Support Funding (COVID)	\$123,288
Other	\$5,696



Employee Benefits	\$530,189
Rental	\$22,634
Administration	\$54,496
Travel	\$1,653
Project	\$16,043
Other	\$11,218



“ The impact of the pandemic has been profound, especially on school kids who have missed lots of in-person learning over the past two years, as well as so many opportunities to build friendships and have fun. We hope that our contribution to Kids Hope can alleviate some of the challenges we’re seeing. ”



James Ostroburski
CEO, Kooyong Group
Investment and financial advisory for the medical industry

STEWARDSHIP

TIM COSTELLO HOPE AWARDS

The Kids Hope community has been built on the work of amazing people making an impact, one hour at a time. Every year we highlight a few individuals who exemplify the values and purpose of Kids Hope. Congratulations to our 2021 Tim Costello Hope Award winners!



CORRY SKILBECK

Corry has been with Kids Hope since its inception with World Vision in 2004. She has served as an office volunteer, a mentor, and for the past ten years as a coordinator for Forest Hill Uniting Church and Burwood Heights Primary School.

Corry loves the community building aspect of the Kids Hope program. As she and her team remained consistent and compassionate, the evidence of their efforts was seen in the mentored children. The teachers and principal could not help but take notice, and now welcome them as an essential part of the education team. After ten years in the school, Corry is treated almost like a member of staff.

"The kids need you now more than ever," declared the principal, "the children didn't want to go home for the COVID holidays." As most of the mentor kids were deemed 'most vulnerable,' they were attending school. They felt safer at school, and the Kids Hope activities helped the teachers who were teaching the rest of their class on-line.

Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, Corry and her team were not hindered. Corry delivered activity packs every fortnight, each with a personal letter or card from the kid's mentor. These were passed through the bars of the locked school gate! Staff and children expressed their appreciation. They maintained that these extra efforts ensured the children continued to feel valued and important throughout a difficult time.



The kids need you now more than ever. They didn't want to go home for the COVID holidays.

Principal, Burwood Heights



JENNIFER ABREU

Jennifer has been mentoring and coordinating a Kids Hope program for St. Luke’s Anglican Church Frankston and Karingal Primary School since 2015. In this time, she has overseen 35 mentoring relationships.

What Jennifer loves about being a mentor is seeing children develop and thrive. She has found that the key to transformation is consistency and building connections based on the child’s passions. This simple method has led to outstanding impact, time and time again.

A boy named Nathan, who was being raised by a single mum, was described as being ‘totally out of control,’ both at home and at school. His mentor learned that Nathan liked recording videos, so they decided to make a movie. They created a ‘movie set’ by painting cardboard and using Lego. Nathan loved it. He began reading books about video production and gaming, and his passion grew. His teachers noticed a difference

in his schoolwork and his engagement, and his mother was thrilled with how settled he had become. By grade 6 he was focussed on his schoolwork, he was confident, capable and ready for high school. What a transformation!

One of Jennifer’s greatest joys is seeing the face of a child light up when they learn you are there just for them - no one else. Her devotion to making children feel valued and important for who they are, is transformational.



LEONETE LEOW

Leonete (Leo) has been the Kids Hope coordinator for Station8 Church and Kalinda Primary School since 2019. Being a small congregation, finding mentors could have been a problem, but not with Leo. She managed to recruit, screen and train over 25% of her congregation!

In the few years they have been mentoring, they have seen multiple lives transformed. Kayden was a young boy filled with anger and aggression, only ever paired with male teaching staff, until a female mentor stepped in. She was able to discover Kayden’s interests and gain his trust through consistent care. He quickly grew to love and respect her – she was the only one with whom he would truly connect. In a very short time, Kayden went from being the most problematic child in the school to not even being on their radar. Remarkable!

Leo and her team have utilised the Pen Pal program during COVID restrictions with great creativity. From treasure hunts to handmade card making and comic book writing for kids struggling with literacy. Mentoring has been a highly rewarding and impacting adventure for Leo and her team.

Leo has also volunteered through COVID restrictions to assist the Kids Hope staff. She has spent hours on the phone supporting fellow coordinators during this challenging season. Her efforts and encouragement have been a blessing to many!



CHAMPION AWARD

**9 WEEKS
+ 20,000 KM
46 TOWNS**

\$100,000 RAISED

This year we are introducing a new award to recognize those who exemplify a heart and passion for Australian kids through extraordinary fundraising efforts. It takes courage, enthusiasm and a bold spirit to raise awareness and funds, and we are so grateful to this year’s recipient of the inaugural Champion Award, Wayne Butcher and tthe Kids + Champions Team.

Wayne Butcher had a dream to fly a helicopter around Australia. He worked hard to prepare, train and save for eight years, but when the time came to fulfil his dream, something was missing. His head was in it, but his heart wasn’t. He realized that to make it truly worthwhile and fulfilling, he needed to partner his passion with a purpose.

He thought of his mother, and how he had seen her joy and purpose grow as she mentored children through Kids Hope for 15 years. He started to ask her questions, and sparks of inspiration quickly grew. He could partner his passion for flight with the purpose of improving the lives of vulnerable children!

“Kids today are tomorrow’s leaders, yet they have no leaders. They need confidence and competence,” Wayne explained, “and mentoring is essential.”

He, and his team at Kids + Champions, began a fundraising event like no other. Traveling around Queensland, as Covid-19 restricted a national tour, Wayne lifted the spirits and smiles of children with a helicopter flight through the sky. For many, this was the highlight of a challenging time and the special attention they received was refreshment to tired souls.

Through their fundraising efforts, they raised over \$100,000 for Kids Hope! That means 340 children will be able to benefit from the time and attention of a Kids Hope mentor for an entire year. But, perhaps even more important was the feedback they received - smiles that had been hiding for years, conversations from the quiet children who ‘don’t talk to adults,’ sadness replaced with joy, laughter and hope!

When asked about the success of the fundraising, Wayne explained, “When people’s hearts are involved, their generosity increases.” Supporting an organization like Kids Hope ensures that we are able to, as Wayne says, “influence a child for decades,” and what could be a better investment than that?

WAYNE BUTCHER & THE KIDS + CHAMPIONS TEAM

WAYNE BUTCHER
Pilot & Innovator

CASSANDRA MATHEWS
Videographer

CHRIS JEONG
Digital Marketing

TRACEY PATTERSON
Project Manager

LALITHA CHELLAPPAN
Story Resourcing & Planning

RUTH BUTCHER
Inspiration & ‘Certified Angel’



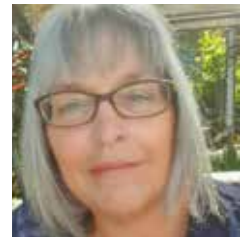
WAYNE BUTCHER



CASSANDRA MATHEWS



CHRIS JEONG



TRACEY PATTERSON



LALITHA CHELLAPPAN



RUTH BUTCHER

GENEROUS



Kids Hope is the best program in the school. The change over the past 10 years has been quite amazing.

Principal, Victoria

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 BOARD

Kids Hope is so grateful for the diverse and passionate group of professionals serving on our board. We benefit greatly from their expertise, leadership, compassion, and generosity.



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



DANIEL VICINO, TREASURER
Certified Practising Accountant
MD of Spire Business Services



GAIL CAMERON, CEO



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



SUSAN BAZZANA
Head of St Martin's College,
Charles Sturt University



PATRICK PARKINSON
Professor of Law, University of Queensland



JOHN ALTMANN
Lawyer, Anglican Minister & Social Entrepreneur

LEADERSHIP

OUR AMBASSADOR



LISA MCINNES-SMITH

We are privileged to have LisaMcInnes-Smith as our inaugural 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.



GIVE

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 generous gift will fund 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/donate-now>

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>



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



Your investment in the lives of these kids creates an impact that is immeasurable!

CONTRIBUTE



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