



BRINGING

HOPE

Annual Report
2023

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“ Kids Hope forms
a *weekly shelter* in the **storms**
of life for vulnerable kids AND
shines a light of hope into
their **FUTURE** ”



“

Kids Hope has a really important role to play in helping to bring confidence and hope to vulnerable children.

”

CHAIR'S REPORT

If ever we needed convincing that Kids Hope has a really important role to play in helping to bring confidence and hope to vulnerable children of primary school age, then this year has confirmed our purpose and value many times over. We invite you to read in this Annual Report, some of the many life-changing stories we hear.

School staff are now increasingly stretched and often stressed in the context of heightened child anxiety and risks of poor mental health and wellbeing. Homes are under more financial pressure from rising costs of living and pressure on housing affordability.

Our volunteer mentors remained faithful and committed around Australia to connect with their mentored kids despite the COVID restrictions and consequent meeting and communication challenges. Thank you so much to all our many volunteers - especially mentors - for your wonderful investment in precious, young lives.

For not-for-profits like Kids Hope, this past season in Australia was characterised by tighter conditions for resourcing and funding, resulting in increased pressure on our staff and the wider Kids Hope community. Churches have also been widely impacted, restricting their ability to support and fund many volunteer-based community services, such as Kids Hope. Our board-endorsed strategy for FY23 included: holding firm in supporting existing mentors and programs, focus on a regional growth area, and new foundations for efficient scaling of programs into the future.

Our team, under our CEO Gail Cameron's energetic leadership, has invested countless hours in supporting existing Kids Hope programs around Australia and focussed growth in two main areas. The first is the regional growth initiative in West Australia. We welcomed a new staff member to the team to launch and develop Kids Hope community engagement around Perth and the South West.

The second initiative laid foundations for digital transformation to scale our growth, enabling more efficient use of resources, communications and processes.

This foundational multi-year project was generously supported by a Capacity Building Grant. Once fully operational, the plan is to reach and train many more mentors, coordinators and churches, and to partner with complementary organisations to efficiently grow Kids Hope mentoring in thousands of schools.

Heartfelt thanks again to our Board Members and Patrons/Ambassador Rev Tim Costello, Marilyn Leermakers and Lisa McInnes-Smith who serve generously and faithfully. We thanked John Altmann for his completion of nine dedicated years of service as a foundational Director of Kids Hope in Australia. We warmly welcomed Catherine Korn to serve as a Director from her base in Perth.

We look forward to your partnering with Kids Hope through gifts and grants, talents and time, to change the destiny and life experience of children needing the gift of one mentor, one child, one hour per week.

John Allison
Chair

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

CEO'S REPORT

In a complicated world, Kids Hope gives vulnerable kids a fighting chance. With a mentor in their corner, showing up once a week with care, consistency and fun, kids feel seen and valued, and grow in understanding that their lives matter. *Kids Hope forms a weekly shelter in the storms of life for vulnerable kids and shines a light of hope into their future.*

With nearly 20 years in operation, we are now beginning to hear back from formerly mentored kids, now adults! It is such a privilege to hear from these kids who have benefited from having a light of hope in their lives through mentoring! The stories of transformation are heart-warming and fuel our small team as we work hard behind the scenes to support teams of mentors going into schools.

Our longest standing staff member, Tim Smith celebrated 10 years of Kids Hope this year, and shared that it is the kids that keep him going. He recently presented at a church when a young lady came forward to register interest in mentoring. Why? Because she had been mentored herself as a young child and wanted to share the benefit with others! Kids Hope filled the gaps for this young lady when she might not otherwise have had anyone in her corner. And now she's able to share this hope with others - how amazing is that!

One of the many highlights for me this year was visiting current and prospective partners in West Australia. I had the privilege of visiting our largest Kids Hope partnership between North Beach Primary School and North Beach Baptist Church. I joined the Kids Hope team in serving 40 barista-made coffees to school staff (something they do every week!) and met directly with the Principal. He shared his overwhelming support for Kids Hope and said that he couldn't do what he does without his church across the street who had been a tremendous support to the staff and students.

This report will bring many exciting highlights of the impact that Kids Hope is having in our communities across Australia. We trust that you will be touched and inspired as you read.

The impact of Kids Hope is only possible with many contributors, in fact, thousands. We extend a huge thank you to our mentors, coordinators, school program contacts, prayer partners, financial supporters, staff, board directors, advocates, patrons and ambassadors. We couldn't do what we do without everyone doing their part, so thank you!

On behalf of the Kids Hope team, a great big thank you to all who have contributed this year. You make it possible for thousands of kids to have a weekly shelter from the storms of life and hope for a brighter future. Thank you!

Gail Cameron
CEO



“

With a mentor in their court, kids feel seen and valued, and grow in the understanding that their lives matter.

”

PROGRAM REPORT

It was a joy to hear that 99.7% of our mentors across the nation were once again able to attend face-to-face mentoring sessions. That amounts to 42,240 hours of smiles that spread across children's faces!

This is welcome news given the demand for mentors was once again on the increase. Schools have experienced the rising tide of anxiety in primary school children and are in desperate need of well-being support.

Professor Hudson, Chair of the Childhood Mental Health Research Plan Expert Advisory Panel stated that "children experienced increased mental health symptoms before COVID-19, but then COVID-19 made that grow exponentially."¹

Armed with this knowledge, last year we made the strategic decision to expedite our plans to increase our

capacity. As a result, planning for the digital scaffolding required for rapid expansion was a key priority for our program and operations team. Once completed, our digital systems will provide the capacity and efficiencies required to meet the ever-increasing demand for mentor support in primary schools.

The requests for more mentors did not only occur in our current programs. We also had a flurry of new and returning programs. A total of 22 new school partnerships formed, which is a great result. With our expansion strategy in place we hope to see this number driven higher so that even more vulnerable children throughout Australia can benefit.

We respond with such determination not just because of COVID, but because the evidence clearly demonstrates that over 50% of mental health problems surface before puberty.¹ Our belief is that if we help prepare our young children's lives now, they will need less repairing later.

This value is tightly held by the 1056 volunteer mentors we have trained and supported throughout the year. Our program support team worked hard to resource and inspire mentors as they re-entered classrooms, supporting them through somewhat challenging times. And they flourished! The results are in. Our annual evaluation clearly demonstrates that our mentors make the difference children crave. You can read all about it in our Evaluation Report on page 8.

None of these results would be possible without the dedication and generosity of our many supporters, staff, church and school partners, and our Board. Thanks to them, we can continue to empower Aussie children to thrive through life-transforming one-to-one mentoring.

Lou Fogg
Operations

¹ <https://www.health.gov.au/news/mrff-improving-childrens-mental-health-and-wellbeing?language=en>

YEAR AT A GLANCE

 **42,240**

HOURS INVESTED
into the lives of vulnerable children

 **1,056**

KIDS MENTORED

 **22**

NEW SCHOOLS

 **194**

KIDS HOPE PROGRAMS
making an impact

Here's some of what our mentors said:



"He now attends school every day and mostly comes on time. When he started, he averaged 2-3 days attendance a week and usually arrived around 11 am, every day."



"She has very few stable adults in her life. I feel I am able to provide a safe space for her to be herself, and I ensure to give her choice around which activity we do each week."



"She enjoyed meeting with me and we laughed a lot. From a girl who would not make friends, she was awarded student of her year. Very proud of her."



"An email from a parent of the child affirmed that the program has had a huge impact overall. They were very affirming and grateful for my input."

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

EVALUATION REPORT

Absolute gold! That is how you could describe the many wonderful stories and comments that were captured in our Mentor and Teacher Evaluation Surveys.

With 94.11% of teachers saying the Kids Hope program had a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of their mentored children, the evidence clearly demonstrates the transformational power of one-to-one mentoring. One teacher captured this sentiment so simply by saying, "The mentor really makes a difference."

It's not just our mentored children who benefit from Kids Hope. As one chaplain said, "Kids Hope has really helped share the load of social and emotional support of students in the school. Meaning there's more time to invest in different students."

Positively impacting one child's life inevitably creates a ripple effect. Teachers are happier and less stressed because they can then give their attention to other children in the classroom.

More children are then happier and motivated which encourages a better classroom environment. In turn, school leadership and other staff are inspired and motivated to also see positive change in other classrooms. This then initiates the spread of better behaviour and motivation throughout the school. Therefore, it's no surprise that a staggering 100% of teachers would recommend the Kids Hope program for other children.

Not only that, but the ripple effect spreads to home as well. Parents and guardians also notice a difference as their child starts to thrive. As one teacher stated, "The family of the mentored student feels supported. It takes a load off their back."

TEACHER EVALUATION HIGHLIGHTS

94.11%

Teachers say that the Kids Hope program has had a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of the mentored child this year.

Teachers say that they would recommend the Kids Hope program for other students.

100%

95.39%

Teachers say that the Kids Hope program is easily implemented into the school setting.



WELLBEING SUPPORT

EVALUATION REPORT cont.

These incredible results would not be possible without the dedication, care and creativity of our amazing Kids Hope mentors.

They made every effort to connect with their mentored children - always finding new ways to inspire, motivate, care, and encourage. In fact, 92.5% of mentors said they had a strong, positive bond with their mentored child. That is an extraordinary amount of connection!

Often the support of mentors does not stop there. As financial demands continued to increase last year, many children and families were provided much needed food security. One mentor shared, "I was able to get to the school to ensure that my boy had lunch each day."

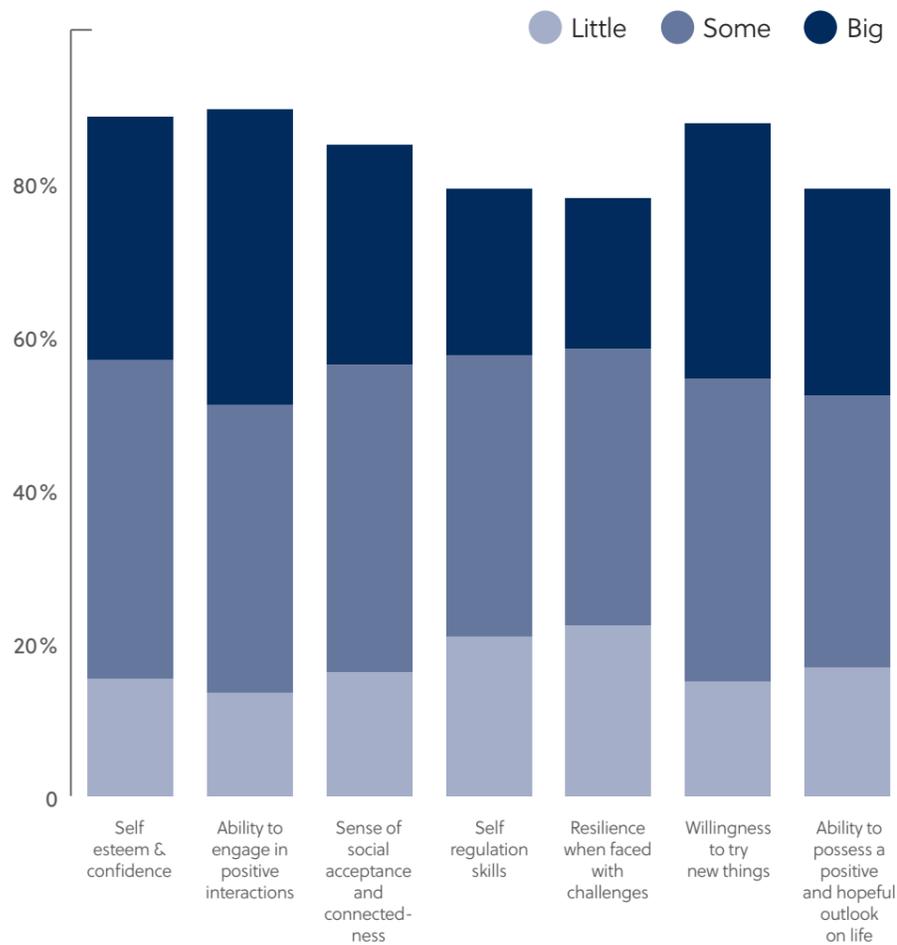
After so much disruption during COVID, getting to school every day was also a struggle for

many children. With the motivation to see their mentors, many children started to attend school more regularly. As another mentor observed, "He now attends school every day and mostly comes on time." And yet another mentor, "After the lockdowns, he has grown to see school as a good thing and a good place to be."

One-to-one mentoring changes kids' lives! Their self-esteem, confidence, optimism and resilience grow. Their ability to engage in positive interactions increases because they're learning how to self-regulate. They begin to feel a sense of social acceptance and connectedness.

All of these positive indicators are clearly captured in our graph below.

Mentor Evaluation - Observed improvement in mentored child:



MENTOR EVALUATION HIGHLIGHTS

Mentors felt that they benefited from being a mentor.



Mentors said they had a strong positive bond with their mentored child.



IMPROVED
RESILIENCE



STRONG CONNECTIONS

EVALUATION REPORT cont.

The stats and feedback shared in this report clearly demonstrate that the presence of one caring, committed mentor increases the likelihood that a mentored child will flourish. We could not be more pleased with the outcomes of the Evaluation Surveys.

We encourage you to take a moment and read the responses in full. They are inspiring and a steadfast reminder that the work of Kids Hope must continue! You can find them by scanning the QR Code to the right, or click here: <https://kidshope.org.au/general-information-centre/#evaluations>

Join us in celebrating the continuation of seeing our vision fulfilled - to see hope in the lives of every child.



SCAN ME

Here's some more of what our mentors said:



"She is always in attendance on my visiting day, which is a positive, since being absent from school was a problem last year."

"She has grown to trust me, which is good, as she was quite wary at first. She tells me that my time with her is the best part of school."



"He has settled better into playground activities and is a happier child."

"He was awarded the Citizenship Prize at the school for his Year 6 graduation."

FINANCIAL REPORT

In the 2023 financial year, we focused on capacity building for growth and program expansion in a new region. Growing strategic collaborative relationships led to doors opening in West Australia for Kids Hope. We seized this opportunity by investing in West Australia, with a focus on promoting Kids Hope, building and strengthening strategic relationships, and engaging new school and church partnerships.

We also embarked upon a significant capacity building project focusing on a new technology platform and digital resources, including a fantastic new website. This investment in capacity and efficient communications and processes will make it easier, simpler and faster for mentors and supporters alike to access resources and engage with the Kids Hope team.

This investment in capacity building for growth translated to a planned surplus for year 1 to provide ample funds for the one-off, project-based budget deficit for this financial year. The funding was secured in advance so that the planned shortfall would be covered. You will see this reflected in the higher income in the previous year and the increase in expenses in this financial year.

We are incredibly grateful for the support of our partners who see the strategic benefits of investing in capacity building. This investment translates into growth of our structure and thus reach, and ultimately and most importantly, growth in the number of kids reached with hope!

A huge and heartfelt thank you to each and every one of you who continues to give generously so that kids and their communities will be empowered to thrive!



Affiliation & Training Fees	\$143,359
Grants	\$150,362
Donations & Fundraising	\$174,613
Investment Income	\$9,221
Other	\$19,668



Program Support & Growth	\$467,486
Professional Fees	\$43,202
Rental	\$15,000
Administration	\$62,765
Uncollected Debt	(\$11,634)
Promotion & Travel	\$9,904
Other/Depreciation	\$11,629



GROWTH & CAPACITY

VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

The Kids Hope community is 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 **2023 Tim Costello Hope Award recipients!**



JAN DRURY
Elanora Uniting
Church, Gold Coast

Jan came to Kids Hope as a high-calibre former staff member for two prime ministers. This high-capacity individual chose Kids Hope through which to serve her community, and led one of our earliest programs. Over many years, as a result of the consistent care of her mentor team, Jan has seen over a hundred kids come out of their shell and achieve.

Faced with many, unique challenges, such as, malnutrition, abuse and mental health disorders, Jan's program made a huge difference to the school community as a whole. Many kids, now grown up, have hope and a brighter future thanks to her and the dozens of mentors she supported in life-changing mentoring experiences. Thank you Jan, for your dedication, determination and desire to see children's lives transformed.



JEWELL WATTS
Grovedale Baptist
Church, Geelong

Jewell started mentoring 15 years ago and has led a team of up to 20 mentors. She strongly believes that mentoring lifts self-esteem and empowers vulnerable children to reach their full potential, moving them beyond their circumstances, knowing they are worthwhile and loved. And she is adamant to add that she has benefited as much as the children!

Jewell shared about a young girl she mentored who was completely withdrawn after the tragic suicide of her father. Time with Jewell, cooking and craft, provided an escape from her harsh circumstances. Thanks to Jewell's care, the girl began to engage with her classmates and school-work. By grade 6 she had blossomed into a compassionate and caring child. She's now nearly 18 years old and doing well! Jewell tells us, "Mentoring has nothing to do with how intellectual you are - you just need to be sincere and faithful." Thank you Jewell, for your sincere and faithful dedication in serving through Kids Hope!



MELANIE PETKOVIC
Pursuit Church,
Mornington

Melanie has been mentoring for 5 years and in those years she and her team have had incredible impact, not only on individual kids, but also on the school community. When Melanie arrived, her mentored child couldn't handle being in the classroom. Her head was down, she refused to participate, and she kept leaving the class to hide in the bathroom. Her family life was complicated, with a marriage breakup, blended family, multiple relationships and more breakups. When her mum was then diagnosed with cancer, she became retaliative and nasty to her peers.

Melanie shared that it is just amazing what a difference one person could make with just one hour a week. She says, "The impact is like a pebble in a river, a ripple effect where the entire school community benefits." The mentors are loved by the school and are treated like members of the family. The principal has been so touched by the love and generosity expressed by the church, that when they met she became teary and couldn't speak. Instead, she wrote Melanie long emails to share her gratitude. Thank you Melanie, for your heart, care and service to the kids in your community!

It is with the help of champions like these dedicated individuals and their teams that Kids Hope can continue to grow. Congratulations to our **2023 Kids Hope Champion awardees.**



DON SINCLAIR
Uniting Op Shop,
Forest Hill

For many years Uniting Op Shop Forest Hill, under the leadership of Don Sinclair, has supported their Kids Hope school by funding mentor and teacher lunches, Christmas hampers, school camp fees and food for kids who go without. Don and the Op Shop team have been so inspired by the stories of transformation at the school, that they are always keen to be the first to meet a financial need when it arises. All of the love and support shared with the school in this beautiful partnership has led to the school principal saying, "There is no doubt at all that Kids Hope is the best program we have in our school!"

In addition to this, the Op Shop donated enough funds to start three new Kids Hope programs last year, and have pledged to support another four schools this year. And they intend to keep going! Thank you Don and your precious Op Shop team for all your support. It means so much to us and our work with vulnerable children in schools.



KATHY FERGUSON
Mount Waverley
Uniting Church

Kathy started mentoring 12 years ago and also coordinates her church's Kids Hope program. They started with 6 mentors and now have 11, but are aiming to have 12 mentors to mark 12 years next year! Kathy has contributed in many ways over the years, both as a member of her church, and as part of her 'Frensies' group. It's in this group that she and her friend, Shirley, provide exquisite high teas and share Kids Hope stories of transformation. All so that they can encourage their friends to give towards children in need.

Kathy was thrilled to receive the Champion Award for many reasons, but one in particular. His name? Max. Max was a Kids Hope mentor and pastor of their church. He stepped up and made a huge impact in the lives of two boys - one whose father died, the other whose father was abusive. Sadly, Max passed away 2 years ago. Both boys, now teenagers, attended his funeral. They shared publicly about the difference Max had made in their lives, with one sharing that thanks to Max, he had belief in men again. The amazing coincidence? Max's surname is Champion! When Kathy rang Ruth, Max's wife, to tell her about the KH Champion Award, Ruth said, "We're still champions!" Yes, indeed you are! Thank you Kathy and your wonderful team for all the support you give us. We appreciate you.

CHAMPION & HOPE AWARDS

It is with the dedicated and talented assistance of our Kids Hope Board that we can continue to deliver and grow our mentoring program. Their professionalism and capacity ensures we can continue to have impact in the lives of vulnerable kids.

Please take some time to read about them here: www.kidshope.org.au/team/#our-board

OUR BOARD



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



GAIL CAMERON, CEO



BELINDA LOKE
Founder & Principal Lawyer, Legalex and Company Director, QEC (Board Secretary 2019-2023)



CATHERINE KORN, SECRETARY
Company Director in the Food Manufacturing sector



PATRICK PARKINSON
Emeritus Professor of Law, University of Queensland and Executive Director, Publica



JOHN ALTMANN
Lawyer, Anglican Minister and Social Entrepreneur (Director 2014-2023)

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 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 Marylin Leermakers' vision that the Kids Hope program transitioned from World Vision to a separate entity. Marylin has always been passionate and dedicated to the cause and willing to go 'beyond the call of duty'. Marylin 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/donation/>

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 the 'Get Involved' page on our website to find out how you can be involved: <https://kidshope.org.au/get-involved/>

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 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.





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