



Ronald McDonald  
House Charities®  
Greater Western Sydney

# 2022 Impact Report



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# Welcome

With the help of corporate and community support, Ronald McDonald House Charities Greater Western Sydney (RMHC GWS) has provided holistic care and life-changing services to families with seriously ill or injured children for over 40 years.

*“Ronald McDonald House is more than our home away from home – it is our sanctuary. It is a place where there is always a hot meal, a warm bed, friendship, and laughter at the end of another long day spent at the hospital. RMH is also the place where our family can just ‘be present’ together without having the added stress of being separated by hundreds of kilometres.”*

**Michelle**, Mum of Oscar



## Acknowledgment of Country

Ronald McDonald House Charities Greater Western Sydney (RMHC GWS) acknowledges the Burramattagal people of the Dharug nation as the Traditional Custodians of the lands, skies, and waterways where we work.

RMHC GWS also acknowledges the various Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples – amongst the families we care for, our employees, volunteers, and supporters, who form part of the oldest continuous living culture on earth. We pay our respects to them and their cultures and to Elders past, present, and emerging.

# Message from our Chair



This year the incredible Dr Audrey Evans, a trailblazing paediatric oncologist who co-founded Ronald McDonald House Charities in 1974, passed away aged 97.

Dr Evans recognised that "a family with a sick child is a sick family" and so she built a care model around this philosophy, which we, together with over 260 RMHC Chapters around the world, proudly continue today.

In 2022 as we moved out of COVID restrictions, Ronald McDonald House Charities Greater Western Sydney (RMHC GWS) supported over 1,400 families from our Westmead House. A further 152 children received one-on-one tuition to help them transition back to the classroom through our Learning Program.

It has been wonderful to see our in-house programs return this year, with over 15,000 meals prepared through Meals from the Heart. We were also thrilled to come together with supporters for annual fundraising events such as Race Day once again. Speaking of Race Days, the FDC Melbourne Cup Luncheon, which raised \$433,629 for the House, was truly remarkable and we are thankful for the ongoing support of FDC.

Fundraising and financial support remain critical to ensuring our services and programs not only carry on, but that they expand so we can help more and more families into the future.

We sincerely thank the many generous people and organisations who enabled RMHC GWS to continue providing life-changing support for sick and injured children and their siblings and carers in 2022.

We also sincerely thank our fantastic staff and volunteers for their incredible efforts, which make RMHC GWS a home for seriously ill children and their families.

It's because of each of you that we're able to keep families together when they need each other most.

*Ken*

**Ken Basha**

Chairman of the Board

# Keeping families close

**"Ronnie Mac", as Quinn's mum Sheridan refers to the House, has been this young family of four's home for 252 nights and counting.**

Their journey began when Sheridan noticed her daughter Quinn looking pale. Shortly after, she developed a runny nose, fevers, and petechiae, small red blood spots that they didn't know at the time were leukaemic rash.

Quinn was diagnosed with High Risk Pre-B Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia on 6th April 2022, less than a month after her 4th birthday. Travelling from Dubbo for life-saving treatment, the family began their stay at our Westmead House six days later.

"You never think it's going to be your family or it's going to be your child until it happens and then your life's forever changed," Sheridan shares. Quinn is currently at the tail-end of 12 months of intensive chemotherapy blocks and while she is overall responding well to treatment, there are days that are more difficult than most. This is when support, in all its various forms and sources, props up the family.

Sheridan and husband Jeremy appreciate the little "sanity breaks" provided by the Learning Centre, where Quinn and 2-year-old sister Niamh can expend a little bit of energy and creativity. The rest of the staff and volunteers have also made their journey "just that little bit easier", with the girls becoming great mates with everyone (particularly at reception!).

Throughout the year, programs conducted with the help of various community partners have also put a

smile on Quinn's and Niamh's faces, which is priceless to families with a sick child. From meeting Lightning McQueen and Spider-Man to looking forward to Pizza Night Tuesdays, from attending a puppet-making workshop to a Halloween scavenger hunt around the House – these little moments provide respite from hospital treatment for Quinn, her whole family, and all the other children and carers that stay in the House.



*"Thank you for being our home-away-from-home and a huge support network for us... This experience could be so much more difficult but having the House makes it manageable and even oftentimes enjoyable, so thank you!"*

**Sheridan**, Quinn's mum

**1,474**  
families called  
our House a  
home in 2022

**567**  
children were  
able to stay  
with their  
sick/injured  
siblings in the  
House

# House of Healing and Reconciliation Action

**RMHC GWS strives to provide a welcoming and safe space for all peoples – embracing families, employees, volunteers, and members of our community from all backgrounds – to create an environment where every person feels valued and comfortable.**

We imagine a future where all Australians value and respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures, and rights – as being the oldest continuing culture in the world.

Though we have acted on this vision in various ways over the years, we felt strongly there was much more we could do to support reconciliation between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and non-Indigenous cultures. Reconciliation has long been in our hearts and mind.

In NAIDOC Week (July 2022), following two years of collaboration with our internal Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Working Group and Kamilaroi woman Dr Lana Leslie from Gunnedah Hill, we proudly launched our first REFLECT Reconciliation Action Plan.

Aboriginal artist Lee Hampton of Koori Kicks Art custom-made a beautiful artwork he named "House of Healing", which tells the story of our journey and mission.

We had a wonderful ceremony at the House to celebrate the launch of our RAP along with our new Aboriginal garden created by Black. Aboriginal Elder Uncle Colin Locke delivered a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony together with Kamilaroi man Paul Glass while Wagana dancers performed.

Later that week, Aboriginal artist Rheanna Lotter from Ngandabaa Aboriginal Art came to the House to run workshops with families.

Since July, our RAP working group have continued to meet monthly to implement the key deliverables of our RAP, which are centred around three pillars: Respect, Opportunities, and Relationships.

It has been lovely to connect with The Clontarf Foundation and to welcome four of their students to the House to prepare Meals from the Heart for families.

We are excited about continuing to action all deliverables and bringing our RAP to life. Our hope is that in doing so, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families may feel even more welcomed, celebrated, and at home while they are in our care.

Special thanks to AbbVie, The Corio Foundation, and Rodan & Fields, who provided grants to fund our RAP project and all associated elements.



*"The rainbow behind the hands in the main meeting place represents love, support, and inclusivity of all people... The hands in each smaller meeting place represent support/helping hands... that families with sick children are not alone on this journey, and that they are supported from the beginning of the journey to the end of their treatment and stay at Ronald McDonald House."*



# Campaigns & Appeals

Through our several campaigns and appeals in 2022, our big-hearted community of supporters heeded our call with enthusiasm and selfless generosity.

## Gift a Night Appeal

Our Giving Day returned in October, but this time we collaborated with RMHC Sydney to run the Gift a Night appeal. For 24 hours, all donations made by the community were doubled, thanks to our generous dollar-matching partners FDC, Aldus, Aryzta, B. Braun, Huhtamaki, and Miniso.

We were blown away by the support of our community, raising \$531,340 that will fund 3,321 nights of supported accommodation for families of sick and injured kids.

The House was a special place to be during the appeal, which kicked off with a BBQ breakfast prepared by our incredible House chefs. Magic and wonder were in the air, with Jack Sharp's enchanting magic show and entertainers from Pistachio Entertainment. Hair braiding and flower crowns from Boss braids xo and Blossom Hair Body Face and Wig Boutique brought smiles to the children's faces.

The morning got livelier with Channel 7's Mel McLaughlin and Mark Ferguson spending some time with our families and recording a segment for the 6pm news.

The afternoon brought more excitement as Hills Grammar Pulse Students ran a dance class and the Western Sydney Wanderers FC put on a clinic. We spotted a few potential future Socceroos in the House for sure!

Our day ended with a stunning performance from Sister 2 Sister while our families enjoyed a scrumptious dinner provided by Enzo's.

## Marathon in a Month

Always on the lookout for new ways to raise funds so we can continue to keep families together, we ran our first ever Facebook Challenge in August. Marathon in a Month encouraged participants to complete the distance of a marathon (42.195km) through the 31 days of the month. This could be completed by walking, running, swimming, dancing, or any other way they wished, either on their own or with friends and family.

The Facebook challenge raised a jaw-dropping \$235,000. Of this, \$29,644 was raised by 28 RMHC families that participated.

Nineteen-year-old Sally's motivation for joining was simple: she wanted to help families like hers. She stayed at our House in 2018 after being involved in a car accident that had her being airlifted to Westmead and wanted to pay it forward.

Like Sally, the Millers gamely joined in and even got their friends and netball team on board. At 10 years old, Mackenzie suffered a stroke and was flown to Westmead, where she received life-saving surgery. After months of rehabilitation, Mackenzie swam, walked, and rode (her trike, push wheelchair, and power wheelchair!) over 20km to complete the challenge.

It was humbling to witness such strength of spirit, tenacity, and selflessness from families past and present, despite their own challenging journeys.



Nights of support raised:

**5,040**

Dance for Sick Kids\*

**1,022**

By My Side Tax Appeal\*

**1,469**

Marathon in a Month Facebook Challenge

**3,321**

Gift a Night\*

**2,499**

Santa for Sick Kids\*

\* joint campaign with other RMHC Australia Chapters



*"RMHC provided our family with everything we possibly needed for a staggering 6 months and was able to keep our family together while being away from our home in Orange, which we are all beyond grateful for."*

**Sally**, amazing Marathoner, pictured top left with her family

# Embraced by our community

While these are only a handful, we thank each and every community group that helped us in 2022 in their own special way.

## NSW Line Dance Ball Committee

The NSW Line Dance Ball Committee have been supporting the House for over 16 incredible years. They've had to run differently in the past couple of years, but that didn't stop them from raising a massive \$27,000 in 2022. We are very thankful to the NSW Line Dance Ball Committee and community for their ongoing dedication to the House and look forward to their event in 2023.

## Little Athletics NSW

Our partnership with Little Athletics NSW grows stronger each year. They have raised over \$45,000 but their contribution goes beyond financial help. Each school holidays, they hold fun-filled workshops at the House, allowing kids for all ages and abilities to participate. This year, they also extended their assistance by introducing a Santa for Sick Kids round, where Little Athletics Centres across NSW had the option of holding a Christmas-themed round, selling stripey socks, hosting a bake sale, and donning Christmas dress-ups throughout December.

## The Ladies Committee at Bayview Golf Club

The Ladies Committee at Bayview Golf Club hold an annual fundraiser and this year chose RMHC GWS as their beneficiary. Dressed in fancy costumes and amid a fun-filled day, they went on to raise \$9,050.30.

## ACN

With a partnership that's spanned for over a decade, ACN dollar-match donations made by delegates to their National Conference every year. We had the honour of attending this year's conference, where they raised \$17,688.30.

## Ride for Crossy

Ride for Crossy selects a charity for their annual ride and we were fortunate to have been chosen as their recipient in 2022. Ride for Crossy follows the legacy of Andrea's dad Gary, who completed a mystery 3-night ride on the second weekend of November every year for 13 years. Andrea now continues this tradition and raised \$2,020 this year.

## Rydalmere FC

Rydalmere FC raised \$5,704 through their fundraising at Rydalmere FC and The FC Social, in addition to hosting a toy collection drive for Christmas.

## Chook A Licious

Our friends at Chook A Licious have been fantastic cheerleaders for a while now, holding coffee fundraisers and raising over \$1,500 from our donation boxes on their counter.

Over  
40  
community  
groups raised  
funds for the  
House in 2022



*"If it wasn't for the amazing supporters of Ronald McDonald House, our family wouldn't be able to be together or support each other whilst caring for our son."*

**Brinae**, Mum of Durakai



# Stronger together

47,050

Total # of nights supported in 2022

After 411 continuous nights at the House, Cooper and his parents John and Dianne joyously made the 700km trip back home.

Cooper was 13 years old in November 2021 when he was diagnosed with osteosarcoma, a cancer of the bone that was found in his spine. Due to the urgency, he was airlifted from his home in Nyngan NSW to Westmead and immediately began the long journey of treatment to recovery.

This loving family frequently expressed words of gratitude for Meals from the Heart and other in-house programs that lifted their spirits during a time of great uncertainty.

Having played NRL for many years, Cooper and his parents enjoyed visits from our sporting partners and watching many games at CommBank Stadium, courtesy of our partnership with the Parramatta Eels.



*"Our family owes so much to this House and the beautiful people there. It truly is a House of angels."*

John, Cooper's dad

*"Staying at Ronald McDonald House has allowed us to be together as a family and feel some sort of normality during this massive change."*

Dianne, Cooper's mum

Throughout their stay, Cooper's grandparents, aunt, and cousins came to visit. Because they had a space of their own and access to various communal areas, the family were able to create new memories with loved ones. For John and Dianne especially, these visits replenished them emotionally, helping them to remain strong for each other and for Cooper.

Love and encouragement also abounded in-house, with John and Dianne (pictured below with families from the House) and Cooper forging friendships with other families and finding solace in each other. As another mum puts it, "The friends you make there become life-long friends... They get how hard it is, the nights of pain and no sleep... through the good and bad days."

We look forward to seeing Cooper and his family when they return to Westmead for his quarterly check-ups.



# A lighthouse in uncertain times



## In-house highlights

Days can be long and taxing for families even when in-house, so activities that break the monotony give all family members little moments to look forward to. Aside from regular Zumba by Universal Fitness, families got to paint with Pinot & Picasso, make pizza with Belmonte's Italian, meet special guests like Lightning McQueen and comedian David Strassman, and so much more.



*"We had this safe and peaceful harbour to rest and fill ourselves up with energy, love, laughs, joy."*

Marion, Mum of Loik



# Teaming with soul purpose

Each year, teams of people put their heart and soul into helping us provide holistic support to families with seriously ill and injured children.

What makes a House a home? Comfort, safety, laughter, and love, with lots of hustle and bustle in between. With critical support from corporate and community groups, we organised various activities that are fundamental to helping reduce the impact of illness for those in our care.

## Corporate Team-Building Programs

A pillar of our corporate team-building program, Meals from the Heart alleviates the burden of preparing dinner after a physically and emotionally draining day at the hospital. This year, 97 groups signed up so that families could come back to a lively kitchen and find a healthy and hot meal awaiting them, served with warm smiles.



**15,100**  
meals and treats served in 2022

**1,464**  
volunteers came to the House  
via team-building programs



Meanwhile, 11 Baking a Difference groups served freshly-made treats, enveloping families with the comforting waft of goodies baking in the oven.

Our chefs Mel and Georgia also initiated Prepare & Share this year, where they taught parents and carers new dishes to add to their cooking arsenal.

In addition, 14 corporate groups took part in Working Bees, where they performed household tasks such as housekeeping or gardening. Just as important as providing nourishing meals, ensuring that the House is a clean and welcoming haven helps families to focus their energy, time, and effort on caring for their sick or injured child.

*“We love coming to the House and making a meal for the families and hearing their stories. Knowing that you have helped them think of one less thing for that day is so worthwhile.”*

**Suntory Coffee Team/UCC**

# Supporting learning and play

**Our dedicated Education Services team delivered a range of term time and school holiday activities for sick or injured children and their siblings staying at the House.**

## Tailored in-house programs

Our Hideout Heroes programs ran for 6 days a week and included a mix of art, music, craft, sciences, sport, and curriculum-based activities. This year, we also introduced Playgroup for birth to school-age children, offering play-based learning. In addition, we launched our Ready for School program to equip children with the skills and knowledge needed as they transition to school.

## 1:1 tuition

The Ronald McDonald Learning Program (RMLP) supports 100+ children across NSW each year, helping students catch up on missed education post-treatment. This is done through

1:1 tuition, tailored to students' individual needs, in their hometown. At RMHC GWS this year, we supported a record number of 152 students.

To back this program, EDMed Professional Development continued to be offered to teachers across NSW. This module helps teaching staff navigate the unique challenges of helping students reintegrate back into school life after extended absences. Many participants completed this online this year.

## Partners in education

While we delivered these programs in-house, we worked with numerous community partners, volunteers, and ambassadors to turn these into reality. Our sincere thanks go to them all for their tangible and intangible contributions to enriching the minds and bodies of the young people in our care.

**1,102**  
children  
participated in  
Education Services  
Programs

**152**  
students  
accessed the  
Ronald McDonald  
Learning Program

*"I found having access to a tutor allowed me to catch up on missed work at my own level and pace. It helped increase my confidence levels and skills, which then made it easier to fit back into the classroom with my peers."*

**Ethan**, 17, a student from Mt Annan



# Paying it forward

The impact of the Ronald McDonald Learning Program (RMLP) extends beyond the immediate support students receive as they ease back into school life after an illness or injury. These three remarkable individuals share how the program impacted their lives.

## Claire

When she was younger, Claire was absent from school for about a year and a half due to undergoing cancer treatment. To help her transition back into school, she took advantage of the RMLP.

Now a Mathematics high school teacher, she is also an RMLP tutor and according to her, it's one of the best decisions she's ever made. "I love being able to give back to a program that has truly been a part of where I am today. I still remember my lessons as a 7-year-old within the program; they are memories I hold dear."

## Molly

Molly and her family have stayed for over 370 nights at our House since 2018. Upon her initial return home to Dubbo, she was tutored through the RMLP. Apart from missing content, she missed the transition from primary to high school. Going to a new school with a new disability, as well as the ongoing effects of a cancer diagnosis and treatment made it even more challenging.

Molly's tutor ensured the gaps were filled. He helped her feel she belonged in the class with her peers and gave her the boost when she needed it.

Since then, Molly has raised over 1,200 nights of support for other families like hers. She is now part of the NSW Youth Advisory Council and an inspiring role model and advocate for cancer awareness and research.



## Andy

Andy was diagnosed with osteosarcoma in his left tibia when he was 15. He underwent 12 months of chemotherapy and reconstructive surgery to save his left leg from amputation. Unfortunately, Andy would relapse 10 months later.

He accessed the RMLP in his HSC year, saying that the support he received was more than just tutoring but guidance and mentoring through that crucial year. "I'll be forever grateful to the RMLP for that support."

Andy, pictured above with Molly, is now the Education Coordinator here at the House. He looks after the RMLP – the very same program he benefited from over 10 years ago.

*"At times you feel so alone and on your own. The RMH Learning Program ensured this is not the case when it came to our daughter's education."*

Ange, Molly's mum

# Our events get back on course

After a two-year hiatus, we were thrilled to resume our events on the golf course and the racecourse, coming together with friends and supporters to raise funds to support families that need our services.

## Golf Day

Despite a drizzly start, our 22nd Annual Golf Day held in August at the picturesque Castle Hill Country Club was a resounding success. We had conservative expectations given that it was our first event since COVID, but overwhelming support from sponsors and attendees alike raised over \$50,000.

## Spring Carnival Race Day

September saw one of our crowd-favourite events return to Rosehill Gardens. We spent the day rekindling friendships and making new connections with our 350 guests. We're so grateful to everyone who helped make this event a success, raising an incredible \$54,500.

Together, these events will fund over 650 nights of supported accommodation for families like Larissa's, pictured at right, whose family stayed at the House for over 300 nights since 2020.



*"RMHC is truly a wonderful organisation that supports families being able to be together through some of the hardest times. The love and compassion I have seen at RMHC will touch me for a lifetime."*

Larissa, Mum of Charlie



# Hearts of gold

With COVID restrictions easing in 2022, our beautiful volunteers have been able to resume doing what they do so well: bring light and love to our House.

The mere presence of volunteers makes the biggest difference in the life of the families that stay in the House. Our 129 active volunteers serve in a number of roles, from being frontliners as Family Ambassadors at reception to working behind the scenes with Housekeeping. What they do far exceeds what's in the job description, however. The value of a sincere "How are you doing today?" or an offer to sit down with a cuppa is immeasurable to a parent or carer of a sick child.

## LG Golden Hearts

Rose Maythers is a shining example of this. With a big smile and a bigger heart, she is much loved, not in the least for having a laugh that can be heard all over the House. During the week, she works tirelessly to ensure the House is spick and span. On weekends, she runs a market stall with 3 other volunteers, with all proceeds donated to the House.

It's no wonder then that Rose was awarded "Local legend" for the LG Golden Hearts campaign, where RMHC volunteers across Australia were recognised for their outstanding contributions to the charity. What a star!

## 20 years of service

Another living legend is Phil Savell, who marked 2 decades of service to the House this year. He's done it all – from overnight volunteering to working as a Family Ambassador and countless other jobs in between, unseen. Like so many of our volunteers, Phil's big heart and service has brought so much joy to so many people.

## New volunteers ready to serve

Alongside our established volunteers are fresh faces, such as the new Twilight volunteers we inducted towards the end of the year. With the role launched only in November, the overwhelming response saw 8 volunteers inducted before the year ended. This just goes to show there are so many in our community willing to give their time, lend their ears, and open their hearts. We will be ushering in 2023 with a volunteer force of over 150 wonderful people who will bring a light to families that is hard to describe.

We sincerely thank all our volunteers, past and present.

**147**  
volunteers  
donated over  
**11,961**  
hours

*"I am surprised at the absolute commitment and dedication shown by the volunteers in their quest to help such gravely ill children and their families. They really do have Hearts of Gold."*

**Kaye Eichorn**, donor



# Beneficiary of big hearts

## FDC Melbourne Cup Luncheon

Since completing the construction of our current House in 2017, FDC have remained a close partner, actively demonstrating their support for our cause.

In November 2022, we were honoured to be the beneficiary of \$433,629 that was raised from their 16th Annual Melbourne Cup Luncheon at The Fullerton Hotel in Sydney. Breaking their previous fundraising records, the amount is equivalent to 2,718 nights of support.

Motivational speaker Elijah Arranz, who stayed for hundreds of nights at both our former and current House with his mother Robin, father Jose, and younger sister Lola after a tragic accident in 2015, spoke. The Arranz family were special guests on the day, with Elijah's speech moving the audience to their feet with applause, while his father Jose's speech also touched hearts around the room.

We're beyond grateful to FDC for their ongoing support. Special thanks also go to Maneto Pty Ltd and BBB Lifestyle Living, who generously donated back the prizes they won.

## RMHC NSW Gala Ball

For almost four decades, the RMHC NSW Gala Ball has been organised annually by a committee of hugely generous volunteers to raise funds for all RMHC Chapters in NSW.

2022 marked the 36th Gala Ball, and what a night it was! Over 1,270 guests raised an amazing \$540,000 in the pledge segment and a remarkable grand total of \$1,350,000!

As a result, our (Greater Western Sydney) Chapter received an incredible \$500,000 – 3,125 nights of support for families like Justin and his son Luca, who shared their story on the night. Another staggering donation that we are humbled to receive.

Our sincere thanks go to the RMHC NSW Gala Ball Committee and the many sponsors and guests of this event for their generosity.



# Friends invested in our mission

**Just as our families are stronger together, our support to families is fortified by the immeasurable ongoing support of our partners.**

Special thanks go to our long-standing partners FDC and MJH Multi, who, together with our Room Sponsors and businesses who provide support through Meals from the Heart, grant funding, event sponsorship and much more, have helped us provide life-changing programs and services to families 365 days of the year.

Ours is the House that LOVE built, and we definitely felt your love throughout 2022.

It's because of each of you that our services and programs remain strong and we are forever grateful, as we know our families are too.

*"We are continually amazed by and thankful for the generosity of community and supporter donations of time, meals, goodies for the communal pantry and fridge, tickets to sporting and local events and donations to fund our (and many other families') stay."*

**Lisa**, Mum of Mackenzie



# Invaluable in-kind support

We are forever grateful for the outpouring of love and support that is shown by our community through in-kind donations.

Throughout the year, we received hundreds of donations of goods and services in-kind from generous individuals and businesses. Donations have included items from our regularly-updated Wishlist such as household items, tickets to Sydney Zoo and events, hampers to help celebrate Mother's/Father's Day, and toys or treats to mark other special occasions like Christmas, Easter, or birthdays.

We thank all of you. This mode of support is invaluable – there is no item too small to help ease the day-to-day burden for our families or put a smile on their faces during trying times.



“Christmas time made special by RMHC GWS. If we can't be home for this time of year, I'm glad that we are here.” **Sheridan**, Mum of Quinn



# Our very own cheerleaders for Team RMHC GWS

Once again, our partnerships with organisations such as GIANTS Netball, the Parramatta Eels (and Parra Leagues Club), GWS Giants, Western Sydney Wanderers, and Venues Live delivered immense joy to families with sick children.

During the year, our families were offered weekly tickets to home games across all codes, as well as Grand Final celebrations for the Eels.

Families tell us often how much these experiences buoy their spirits. For some families that live in outback areas, it is their first live event.

We have been fortunate to have massive support from new Ambassador Sarah Weston, an Assistant Principal and social media influencer, along with ongoing support from Simon 'Red Wiggle' Pryce, his wife Lauren Hannaford, Tim Mannah, and TV personality Rachel Raez.

As well as providing thousands of dollars' worth of tickets to matches and events, our partners made several visits to the House for Meals from the Heart and simply to spend time with families.

The impact these visits have on children and their families cannot be underestimated.

Mackenzie, an avid netball fan, has gone on to spend a lot of time with our Ambassadors Amy Parmenter and Tilly McDonnell from GIANTS Netball after meeting them at the House. The girls even came to the House to watch the Diamonds play on TV with "Kenz" during the Commonwealth Games.

Other dedicated Ambassadors include Kieren Briggs from the GWS Giants (who made extra visits during the year whenever he could) and Eels players Reagan Campbell-Gillard and Dylan Brown (who has personally raised tens of thousands for our charity).

The Western Sydney Wanderers have also donated thousands of dollars' worth of tickets and visited regularly throughout the year to run school holiday clinics.

We thank them all for helping families to create happy memories during their time at the House.

*"That was one of the best nights of my life, Mum!"*

Oscar, pictured on the opposite page with an Eels player, after the Eels' annual Christmas visit



# Our heartfelt thanks to

## Supporting Partners



## Grant & Foundation Partners



## Room Sponsors



# Our heartfelt thanks to

# Message from our CEO

## Major Donors

Aaron & Sarah McDonald	Michelle Tallis
Ern Bickford	Sophia Begg

## Corporate & Community Supporters

ACN Australia	GWS Giants	Ride for Crossy
Archangel Wealth	Hawks Netball Team	Rydalmere FC & The FC Social Rydalmere
B Braun	Hills Grammar School	Service Heroes
Baserite Construction	Huhtamaki Australia Social Club	Smartline Personal Mortgage Advisers
Bawley Surf Classic	InformaConnect	Steggles Poultry
Belmonte Italian Cuisine	John Turner	Susanne Craig
Bingo Waste	Leda Aluminium	Sydney Baseball Lions Club
Bright Print Group	Lindt & Sperugli	The Arranz Family
Busy Bees at Georges Hall	Lionel Johnston	The Bucking Bull Hotel Coonamble
CAFAT	Little Athletics NSW	The Ladies Committee at Bayview Golf Club
Charter Hall	Madeline O'Malley	The Ullah Family
CKO Muay Thai	MiniSo	TLH Recruitment
Coca-Cola	Mitsubishi Electric	Toongabbie Sports & Bowling Club
Coles Distribution Centre Eastern Creek	Momento Hospitality	Underground Civil Supplies
Denise Schultz	Narellan Pools Hills District	Universal Fitness
Dubbo & District Preschool	NSW Line Dance Ball	Venues Live
Ebenezer Church Ladies Fellowships	NSW Police	West Sydney Christian Church
Emily Lamrock	Parramatta Eels	Western Sydney Wanderers
GIANTS Netball	Penrith Gaels Irish Club	William Buck
Godolphin	Peppertree Early Education Centre	
	Raging Waters	



Since joining Ronald McDonald House Charities Greater Western Sydney (RMHC GWS) in November 2022, I have seen countless examples of goodwill in action, observing some of the very best in people.

*“You welcomed us and although we do not speak the same language, we were able to understand each other. Since we have been here, we have wanted for nothing. We will keep the best memories of your House.”*

**Marie**, grandmother of 5-year-old Lencia

I've learnt that volunteers and community support are the bedrock of Ronald McDonald House. Just as our families are stronger together, RMHC GWS's services to families with seriously ill children have remained strong for over 40 years because of your support.

Over Christmas we were overwhelmed by an outpouring of donations and toys from our corporate community as they united with volunteers and staff, doing their utmost to help families create happy memories over the holidays. I'm so happy to now be part of this team and I thank Belinda Woolford, CEO for the last 8 years, for her service and leadership.

In 2023, we will continue to provide our established services and programs while also pursuing new opportunities to support the ever-changing needs of families with sick and injured children.

There were 1,474 families that called our House their home-away-from-home in 2022. Unfortunately, even with our 60-room House – one of the largest Ronald McDonald Houses in Australia – we had to turn away 442 other families simply because we did not have room. It's for this reason that we are working very closely with the Hospital Redevelopment teams at both The Children's Hospital at Westmead and Nepean Hospital so that we can offer families support within the Hospital such as accommodation, Family Rooms, and Hospitality Carts. We are likewise assessing how we can further build capacity through our in-house services and programs so that we can meet the needs of even more families.

As part of our assessment, we are listening to the families already in our care to gain a deeper

understanding of their experiences. This will assist us in identifying areas of opportunity to further help families with seriously ill children in their journey.

In order to subsidise these areas, it is critical for the charity to maintain financial sustainability. We will continue this through a strong fundraising strategy and sound financial management, complemented by transparency and accountability.

To ensure we get the most out of every dollar donated and every moment of time volunteered, we work hard to be as efficient as we can in everything we do. Making sure the team is set up for success and are equipped to work optimally ultimately benefits our families.

Marie, who went home to New Caledonia in June with her granddaughter Lencia after 534 nights in the House, says this best. I cannot agree with her more; I experienced this warm and genuine welcome first-hand the moment I walked through the doors in November.

Thank you once again for your support in 2022. We hope we can count on your generosity again as we collectively roll up our sleeves to bring our 2023 plans (and beyond) to fruition, because every donation, every act of goodwill and gift in-kind will enable our services and programs to remain strong for families with sick and injured children when they are not.

*Claire*

**Claire Barber**  
Chief Executive Officer



Ronald McDonald  
House Charities®  
Greater Western Sydney

