



Hummingbird House

Queensland's only children's hospice

Impact Report 2024/25



Background

Hummingbird House exists to ensure Queensland families loving and caring for a child with a life-limiting condition have the clinical care and holistic support they need.

The emotional, physical, and financial struggle for these families can be overwhelming. With more than 8300 Queensland families currently caring for a child with a life-limiting illness, a place to be supported and connected to others who understand is essential. We believe there is nothing more important in walking alongside children and families to make the most of their time together.

Hummingbird House is Queensland's only children's hospice, and one of only three children's hospices in Australia. We provide specialised paediatric palliative care services and perinatal hospice care to babies, children, and young

people with a life-limiting condition, throughout Queensland. Families can choose to access our services in our custom-built home away from home in Brisbane, or in their community.

Our services include short break stays, crisis or symptom management, family support, allied health, end of life and after death care and grief and bereavement counselling. We support children and families with the understanding that grief and bereavement are a natural human experience rather than a pathological symptom requiring diagnosis and treatment.

Our paediatric service differs from the adult model of palliative care which can focus on the final six months of life, whereas Hummingbird House cares for babies, children and young people who are likely to die within the next two years.

It is Hummingbird House's goal to be there for every Queensland family that needs them, providing choice about when, where and how they receive our care.

Hummingbird House Services

- Clinical care
- Rural and regional connection - telehealth
- Family and community support
- End of life and after death care
- Peri-natal hospice care
- Allied health





**2024/25
Highlights**

Hummingbird House provided:

1186

nights for families to stay

339

families received care and support around
Queensland

74

new families came to stay at
Hummingbird House during this period

115

children and families had respite, end
of life and after death care delivered in
the hospice, many of whom had
multiple stays

116

art therapy sessions and

414

music therapy sessions held with
Hummingbird House guests,
siblings and parents/carers

517

hours of hydrotherapy for
children

Family Impact



“Going through this journey would have been much harder, especially if we didn’t have the opportunity to spend time with my son after he died. This is something that no other organisation offers to my knowledge, and I believe has been very helpful for coming to terms with his death”

Hummingbird House parent



Hummingbird House cares for families all over Queensland

Hummingbird house welcomed guests from as far north as Cairns and Townsville, as far west as Warwick and south to Northern NSW.



2025 tax appeal impact

With your generous support, in 2025 our tax appeal raised \$512,950, a true gift bringing comfort and care to families facing some of life’s hardest moments.

We were thrilled to well and truly exceed our \$220,000 target, a reflection of our caring community and the importance they place on the care provided by Hummingbird House.

Our team works tirelessly to raise awareness of Hummingbird House and grow its impact, and we achieved growth of 24% in donors giving to this campaign

for the first time. Additionally, 44% of donors had supported Hummingbird House previously, highlighting the genuine connection that has been formed with donors.

We are so grateful for the kindness of our community who continue to support Hummingbird House so it can be there for children and families. We couldn’t do it without you!

The impact of these funds for children and families who are guests of Hummingbird House is enormous.

With this support we are able to:



Improve training and education resources to ensure staff continue providing current, best-practice care



Purchase appropriate medical equipment including 3 new oxygen concentrators – vital medical devices that separate nitrogen from the air to provide up to 95% pure oxygen



Update guest rooms to ensure a more comfortable and welcoming space for children and families, including recliner chairs to support loved ones for rest or overnight stays



Refresh the garden, a place of connection and memory making



Install projectors for all guest rooms ensuring children who are bed bound can still view



Continue providing welcome packs which are greatly appreciated by families who may have had short notice they are coming to Hummingbird House or have been away from home for extended periods



Source food items and essential supplies to create hampers for families



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We couldn’t do it without you!



Veran's story

When little Veran was 10 months old, parents Megan and Alastair noticed something wasn't right. As parents with two other children, they knew Veran wasn't hitting his milestones, so they spent lots of time and money on getting him the specialist care he needed.

"We found we could no longer sustain normal jobs, have a young family with 3 boys, and be able to cater for a child with a complex condition," said mum Megan.

After several expensive tests and doctor's appointments, they received a life-changing diagnosis. Veran was one of six hundred children in the world with KIF1a, a condition in which there are 1400 variants, and where each variant can vary in terms of severity and symptoms and severity.

"Our efforts to 'catch him up' have more or less been in vain, as his condition is progressive and without a cure (yet)."

In early 2024, the family were connected with Hummingbird House in what was a life-changing decision for them.

"I didn't realise how amazing this team were, and how helpful it can be to have someone care for your child. Veran is sleeping better now, with the help of [Hummingbird House] and night monitoring... I know [Veran] runs the staff there ragged in his 'race runner' trike!"

Providing a space for families like Veran's to breathe and be cared for in a way that suits their needs and wishes is the reason Hummingbird House exists.

“ I didn't realise how amazing this team were, and how helpful it can be to have someone care for your child.”

- Megan, Veran's mum



Hummingbird House

Learn more about life-changing services provided by Hummingbird House.

Phone 07 3621 4364

Email info@hummingbirdhouse.wmq.org.au

Visit hummingbirdhouse.org.au

60 Curwen Terrace, Chermside QLD 4032, Australia



Hummingbird House is proudly owned and operated by Wesley Mission Queensland.



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