



Cure Kids Impact Report 2025

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Featured on the cover: Ben lives with Spina Bifida Myelomeningocele and Hydrocephalus.

Cure Kids funds ground breaking projects in child health so kids like Ben can keep kid-ing - playing dress ups and make believe, laughing, having adventures and living life to the full.

Message from the Chair

Franceska Banga



Children's health research is rarely simple or quick, but its impact can be profound. This year marked an important period of reflection and focus for the Cure Kids Board, as we considered how best to direct our efforts and resources to make the greatest possible difference for New Zealand children.

We completed a full Board review and commenced a review of Cure Kids' strategy, testing ourselves against our purpose and the impact we are here to achieve.

What remains clear is our commitment to funding research that is innovative, impactful and important - work that addresses serious health challenges and has the potential to dramatically improve children's lives, both now and into the future.

Research of this nature demands patience and sustained commitment. Breakthroughs take time, as does the translation of research into clinical practice, tools and technology that improve care in hospitals and communities. Thanks to the generosity of our donors and supporters, Cure Kids is able to take a long-term view, directing funding across a broad range of research priorities guided by need, evidence and the potential for real impact.

I would like to acknowledge our Chief Executive, Frances Soutter, and the Cure Kids team for their enthusiasm and hard work throughout the year. It has been particularly exciting to support exceptional young New Zealand researchers with a passion for children's health. I also thank my fellow Board members for their stewardship and commitment to Cure Kids' purpose. Together, this collective effort ensures the organisation remains focused, resilient and well placed to continue improving outcomes for New Zealand children.

Franceska Banga
Cure Kids Chair

Reflections from the CEO

Frances Soutter



Tēnā koutou katoa

This year has been one of resilience, discipline and quiet but steady progress for Cure Kids.

We have experienced a tougher economic and funding environment than we have seen in recent years. Philanthropic giving has tightened, competition for grants has increased, and many organisations across the sector are feeling the pressure. Against that backdrop, I'm incredibly proud of how Cure Kids has responded by strengthening our foundations and investing carefully in the future.

We have focused on our core purpose as a values-led organisation.

We invested in our culture, our people, and our systems, from cultural values workshops and strategic planning sessions to professional development and operational capabilities to support brand new initiatives such as the first Cure Kids Lottery.

We have also made some difficult but necessary decisions around resourcing and efficiency to ensure we remain financially responsible. These steps have positioned us as a leaner, more focused organisation, one that is stable and prepared for growth tomorrow.

Financial Discipline in a Challenging Climate

This has been a year where careful stewardship really mattered.

While income was lower than last year (largely due to the absence of major grants and a tougher trusts and foundations landscape) we have managed our expenses, and with the support of our investments we achieved an operating surplus.

At the same time, we enjoyed diversifying our fundraising:

- Expanding our events portfolio with initiatives such as the national quiz tour with Shaun Wallace from 'The Chase'
- Launching and building the Cure Kids Lottery for the VW ID. Buzz
- Growing corporate partnerships
- Strengthening our focus on major gifts and legacy giving

Research That Changes Children's Lives

At the heart of everything we do is research, and this year our commitment to high-impact child health research has remained unwavering.

Continued over >>

We continued to support a substantial portfolio of active grants, while adopting a more strategic and disciplined approach by closing completed or lower-impact grants and reallocating funding to areas where our research investment can achieve the greatest impact.

Our 2025 Innovation and Discovery funding round attracted a record number of applications, and this tells us two things:

1. The child health research community sees Cure Kids as a vital partner.
2. The need for funding innovative solutions for children has never been greater.

We have maintained robust scientific review processes, strong governance oversight, and a clear focus on research that delivers real-world impact for tamariki and whānau.

A major strategic focus has been the State of Child Health Report. In the planning of our 2025 report, we positioned this work not just as a publication, but as a national platform to influence policy, public awareness, and political engagement on child health.

Leadership in the Pacific

Our Pacific work continues to be one of the most powerful expressions of Cure Kids' impact.

In Fiji and across the region, we are supporting large-scale programmes in rheumatic heart

disease screening, respiratory health, climate and health, and the solarisation of remote health facilities. These are practical, system-level interventions that improve children's lives now while also building local capability.

In Tonga, we were proud to see the National Child Protection Policy formally endorsed by Cabinet, a milestone moment that Cure Kids-supported expertise helped make possible. This is a demonstrable, long-term and structural impact we strive for.

Partnerships That Power Our Mission

We are proud that our partners remain one of Cure Kids' greatest strengths.

Across the country, businesses, community groups, and individuals have continued to show extraordinary support, through major campaigns, events, media partnerships, and in-kind contributions that amplify our reach. From large-scale national events to local community fundraisers, this support reflects deep trust in Cure Kids and our mission.

We have also seen encouraging growth in legacy giving, including significant bequest commitments. That speaks to the long-term belief people have in the work we do for future generations.

Looking Ahead

This year has shown that Cure Kids is resilient, adaptable, and clear about its purpose.

We have:

- **Strengthened our organisation**
- **Managed finances responsibly**
- **Continued to fund high-quality, high-impact research**
- **Expanded our partnerships**
- **Grown our leadership in the Pacific**

We are endeavouring to position for the future, with a more diversified funding base, stronger systems, and a clear strategic focus on where we can make the greatest difference for children.

To our Board, our partners, our researchers, our supporters, and the Cure Kids team, thank you. The progress we have made this year, especially in such challenging conditions, is a testament to the strength of our teamwork.

Together, we remain firmly committed to one goal: improving the health and wellbeing of tamariki in Aotearoa and across the Pacific.

Frances Soutter

Ngā mihi nui.

Frances Soutter

Purpose, vision and values

Integrity Always

We act with honesty, transparency, and respect — owning our mistakes, staying true to our purpose, and ensuring every voice is heard.

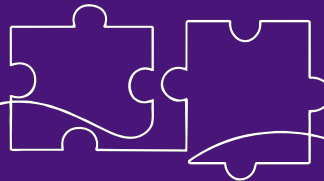
He pono ki te ngākau.
Truth in the heart.



Collaboration

We thrive through collaborations, celebrating diverse talents and working as one team toward shared goals.

Kotahitanga, te pūtake o te kaha.
Unity, the source of strength.



Excellence with Purpose

We hold ourselves to the highest standards, delivering meaningful impact through quality, accountability, and leadership.

He kouna, he kawenga, he arataki.
Quality, responsibility, leadership.



Governance

Cure Kids Board

The Board provides governance management; administering and controlling Cure Kids. To ensure there is a breadth of experience around the Board table, the constitution requires that the Board includes at least four members with business experience, and the Chair or a representative of the Medical and Scientific Advisory Committee.

Franceska Banga ONZM)	Chair
Frances Soutter	Chief Executive Officer, Cure Kids
Alaister Wall	Former Deputy Managing Director, Briscoe Group Limited
Dee-Ann Wolferstan	CEO Te Runanga a Iwi o Ngati
Reuben Tucker	Managing Director of Institutional & Business Banking at Westpac
Russ Hewitt	Independent Director
Professor Sally Merry	Former Cure Kids Duke Family Chair of Child and Adolescent Mental Health
Professor Stephen Robertson BMedSci, MBChB (OTAGO), FRACP, DPhil (OXFORD).	Department of Women's and Children's Health, Dunedin School of Medicine, University of Otago, Dunedin

Board Advisors

The Board also has the ability to co-opt Advisors as non-voting Board Directors. The current Board have co-opted the four Cure Kids Professorial Chairs as advisors.

Professor Stephen Robertson	Cure Kids Chair of Paediatric Genetics
Professor Andrew Day	Cure Kids Chair of Paediatric Research
Professor Stuart Dalziel	Cure Kids Chair of Child Health Research
Professor Terryann Clark	Cure Kids Chair in Youth and Adolescent Mental Health



Governance

Cure Kids Medical and Scientific Advisory Committee

Cure Kids' Medical and Scientific Advisory Committee (M&SAC) advises Cure Kids on which research projects to invest in.

Advisors draw on their considerable experience to assess applications based on scientific excellence, the expertise of the team and collaborators, and the potential impact for reducing inequities, and transforming the health of children.

Professor Stephen Robertson

BMedSci, MBChB (OTAGO), FRACP, DPhil (OXFORD).

Department of Women's and Children's Health,
Dunedin School of Medicine, University of Otago, Dunedin

Dr Patricia Anderson

SRN, MPhil, PhD

Professor Andrew Day

MBChB (Otago), MD, FRACP

Professor Terryann Clark

RN, MPH, PhD

Ngāpuhi

Professor Stuart Dalziel

MBChB (Otago), FRACP

Associate Professor Chris McKinlay

BHB, MBChB, PhD, DipProfEthics

Professor Esko Wiltshire

MBChB, MD, DipObst, DipPaed, FRACP

Professor Te Kani Kingi

MSocSc, DipMDev, PhD, MRSNZ

Ngāti Pūkeko, Ngāti Awa

Dame Dr Teuila Percival

QSO, MBChB, FRACP

Professor Tony Walls

MB ChB DCH PGDipTerT(Otago) MD(Lond) FRACP

Mātauranga Māori expert peer review group — Te Rōpū Rangahau Hauora

New Zealand has a unique population, and Māori children have a genetic heritage found nowhere else in the world. To enable health and wellbeing for tamariki Māori, we need to use local knowledge to design homegrown solutions to tackle NZ-specific health problems.

Cure Kids is proud to work alongside Mātauranga Māori and Māori health experts so we can be sure we're allocating funds and support to the very best projects.

Professor Te Kani Kingi

MSocSc, DipMDev, PhD, MRSNZ

Ngāti Pūkeko, Ngāti Awa

Professor Terryann Clark

RN, MPH, PhD

Ngāpuhi

Dr Reuben Collier

PhD

Ngāti Porou and Rereahu-Maniapoto

Dr Lorraine Eade

PhD

Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Toa Rangatira, Rangitāne,
Te Ātiawa, Ngāti Tama, Ngāi Tahu

Associate Prof Pania Te Maro

PhD

Dr Shonelle Wana

PhD

Ngāti Awa, Ngāpuhi, Ngāi Tūhoe, Te Whakatōhea

Cure Kids Members



Cure Kids Members participate in constitutional and governance management aspects of Cure Kids. Three are drawn from our founding partner, Rotary in New Zealand, continuing its proud association and support of Cure Kids.

Bruce Rasmussen

Rotary New Zealand

Kirsten Hawke

Rotary New Zealand

Tony Caughey

Rotary New Zealand

Associate Professor Dr Nicola Austin

Royal Australasian College of Physicians

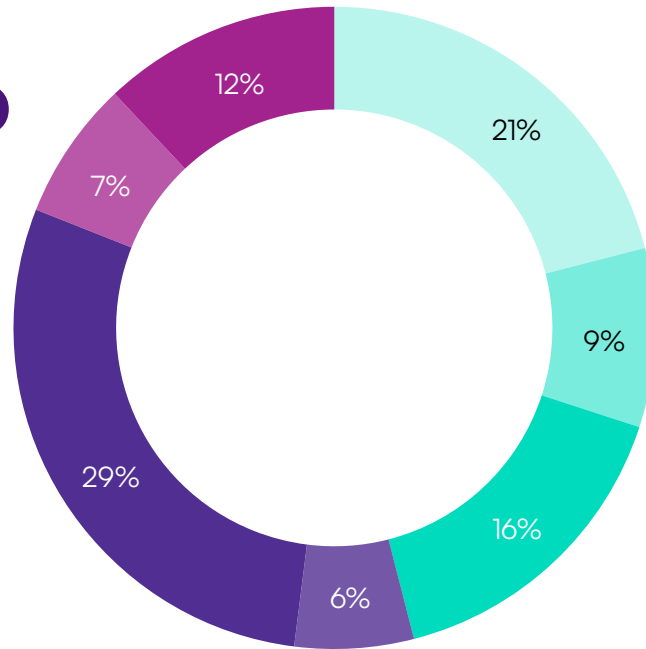
Dr Sonja Crone

Paediatric Society of New Zealand

Your support in action

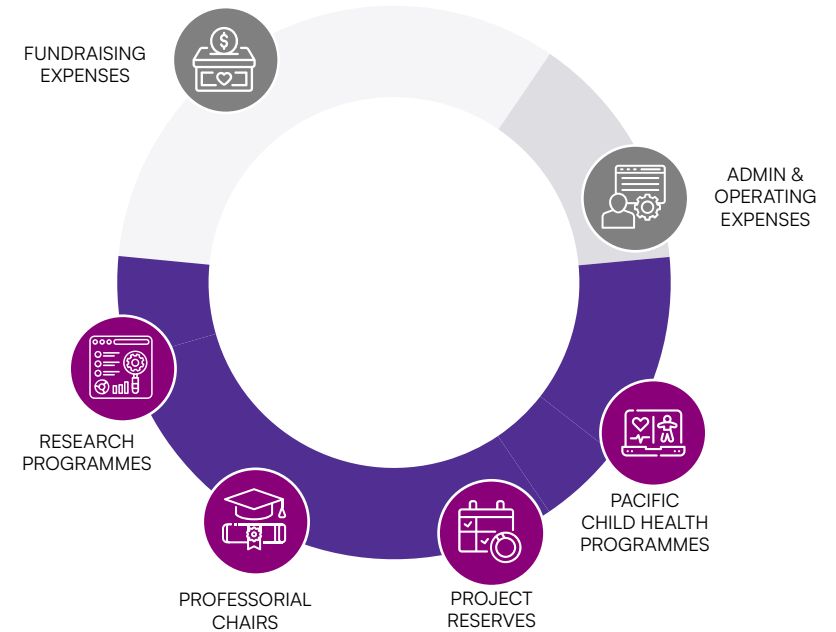
What was raised:

\$7,744,886



■ Partner Fundraising	21%
■ Event Fundraising	9%
■ Donations & Bequests	16%
■ Trusts and Foundations	6%
■ Pacific Funding	29%
■ Donations and Services in Kind	7%
■ Investment Income	12%

How we allocate these funds



■ Fundraising Expenses	14%
■ Admin and Operating Expenses	14%
■ Research programmes	12%
■ Professorial Chairs	5%
■ Pacific Child Health programmes	30%
■ Project Reserves	6%

To view the full financial report for the year ended 31 December 2025, [CLICK HERE](#) to download or to view online, go to www.charities.govt.nz

The overall impact

Total live funding
\$9,331,623

Supporter generosity over many years has enabled Cure Kids to sustain a strong portfolio of child health research. Nearly \$10 million is currently supporting active, ongoing grants across a broad range of child health conditions.



Investing for impact

Big breakthroughs in child health don't happen overnight. They are the result of sustained investment over time. We are proud that, with your continued support, new discoveries have been made in preterm birth, vision and rare genetic brain disease.



Research into low birthweight babies shows most are thriving as adults

Long running research is now providing reassuring answers about the long-term outcomes for babies born very early and with very low birthweight.

The New Zealand 1986 Very Low Birthweight (VLBW) Follow up Study, led by Professor Brian Darlow and supported by Cure Kids, has followed the health and developmental outcomes of New Zealanders born in 1986 who were born prematurely and weighed less than 1,500 grams at birth.

Recent findings show that most participants are thriving in their third decade of life.

[READ MORE >>](#)



International strides in child vision testing

A project originally co-funded by Cure Kids has reached an exciting new milestone for children's eye health.

Led by Professor Steven Dakin and the team at the University of Auckland, the research focused on creating a new set of child friendly symbols, known as the Auckland Optotypes, to improve the accuracy of vision testing in young children. These symbols are now licensed and are one step closer to becoming a standard tool in paediatric vision screening.

[READ MORE >>](#)



Genetic breakthrough offers hope for children with rare brain disease

Research supported by Cure Kids has contributed to progress in understanding rare and devastating childhood conditions.

Led by Dr Louise Bicknell at the University of Otago, this research identified mutations in the CRNKL1 gene that cause microcephaly, a condition that affects brain development and leads to severe developmental delays and seizures in tamariki.

This world first discovery provides families with much needed answers and represents an important step towards earlier diagnosis.

[READ MORE >>](#)

Supporting high performing research teams

One of the most effective ways to strengthen child health research is by building workforce capability.

By investing in researchers across their career pathway, Cure Kids helps develop teams with the skills, experience and connections needed to progress ideas from discovery through to application.

A key part of this commitment is supporting senior research leadership through Professorial Chairs, alongside fellowships and studentships.



Cure Kids Chair of Paediatric Genetics
at the University of Otago
Professor Stephen Robertson



Fellow
Dr Zandra Jenkins



Cure Kids Chair of Paediatric Research,
University of Otago
Professor Andrew Day



Fellows
Dr Angharad Hurley



Dr Alan Aitchison



Cure Kids Chair of Child Health Research,
University of Auckland

Professor Stuart Dalziel

Fellows



Dr Kate Loveys



Dr Libby Haskell



Cure Kids Chair of Child and Youth Mental Health,
University of Auckland

Professor Terryann Clark

Fellows



Dr Esther Yao



Dr Nicola Harrison



Dr Isla Emery-Whittington

Summer Studentship, University of Otago



Dominic Apoldo

Summer studentship: building research capability

Cure Kids funded Dominic Apoldo, a University of Otago Christchurch student, through a summer studentship to undertake a child health research project investigating the gut microbiome and its role in diarrhoea and ongoing gut illness in young children.

The studentship helped build research capability by giving Dominic hands-on research experience and supporting his development as a future clinician or researcher.

“Through this research experience, I was able to gain first-hand insight into what it is like to conduct meaningful research, from formulating questions and analysing data to interpreting results within a broader clinical and scientific context.

Critical thinking, problem-solving, and scientific communication are crucial skills that I will carry with me into the future.”

Dominic Apoldo

Stimulating innovation and discovery

Cure Kids stimulates scientific innovation and discovery through a competitive funding round that supports investigator led research with a clear pathway to impact.

This funding round has a strong track record. Many of Cure Kids' most significant child health breakthroughs began with seed funding through this process, providing early momentum for research that has gone on to achieve national and international impact.

Demand for this funding continues to grow. In 2025, Cure Kids received a record 69 applications, each representing a new opportunity to improve diagnosis, treatment or prevention, and a clear reminder that demand for child health research funding continues to far exceed what is available.

Following rigorous review by Cure Kids' Medical and Scientific Advisory Committee and external experts, seven exceptional projects were selected for funding. These projects stood out for their scientific excellence, innovation and potential to make a meaningful difference for children and families.

Around **200** babies in Aotearoa are affected by neonatal seizures each year.



Innovation and Discovery projects funded in 2025



Vaping During Pregnancy and SUDI Risk: New Zealand Case Cohort Study

Ms Glenda Oben, Professor Barry Taylor
University of Otago

This project aims to understand whether nicotine exposure during pregnancy increases the risk of SUDI, which disproportionately occurs among Māori whānau. Using data from around 170,000 infants, the findings will help shape prevention efforts and support safer pregnancy choices for whānau across Aotearoa.

[READ MORE >>](#)



NEOLEV3: High Dose Levetiracetam in NZ Neonates with Seizures

Dr Cynthia Sharpe — Starship Hospital

Around 200 babies in Aotearoa are affected by neonatal seizures each year, with up to 60% of survivors facing long-term challenges like cerebral palsy, epilepsy, or developmental delays. This study is testing higher doses of a treatment to improve seizure control while reducing harmful side effects, helping more babies access safer care and supporting better lifelong outcomes.

[READ MORE >>](#)



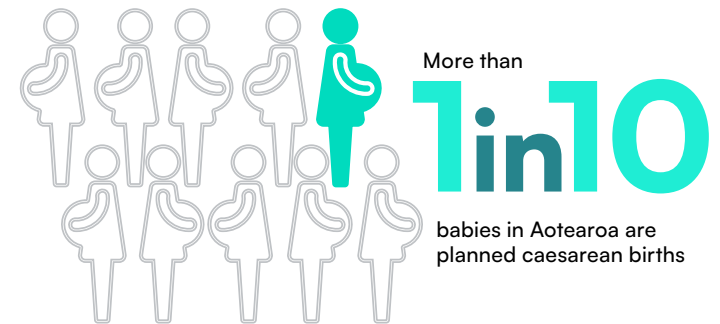
C*STEROID — Safely Improving Outcomes After Planned Caesarean Section Birth

Professor Katie Groom — University of Auckland

The C*STEROID Trial is a world-leading study exploring whether giving corticosteroids before planned caesarean births can improve newborn and childhood health. More than one in ten babies in Aotearoa are born this way, which can increase the risk of breathing problems and neonatal unit admission.

This research will provide the first high quality evidence to guide safer clinical practice in Aotearoa and around the world.

[READ MORE >>](#)





Smart Peptide Therapy for Management of Dental Caries in Children

Dr Kai Chun Li — University of Otago

By age five, around 41% of tamariki already have decay in their baby teeth. This project is developing a pH responsive smart peptide, GA TH, which activates only in acidic environments to target harmful bacteria without damaging healthy cells. This child friendly, non invasive and cost effective approach could stop tooth decay before it starts, supporting healthier smiles for tamariki across Aotearoa.

[READ MORE >>](#)



Examining Mortality After Brain Injury: Estimating the Risk of Suicide

Rebecca Slykerman — University of Auckland

This study asks a critical question: does moderate to severe brain injury in childhood increase the risk of suicide later in life? With more than 74,000 young people in Aotearoa living with significant brain injury and suicide rates disproportionately affecting whānau Māori and youth, this research will use whole population data to identify risk factors, service gaps, and opportunities for earlier, more effective suicide prevention.

[READ MORE >>](#)



Stronger Fillings, Happier Kids: New Bioactive Material for Treating Caries

Dr May Lei Mei — University of Otago

Because baby teeth have thinner enamel, cavities can spread quickly, often leading to repeat treatments. This project is developing a stronger, longer lasting dental filling by reinforcing child friendly materials with tooth like components.

The result is bioactive fillings that help teeth repair themselves, meaning fewer dental visits and happier kids across Aotearoa.

[READ MORE >>](#)


BY AGE

5

41%

OF TAMARIKI ALREADY HAVE DECAY IN THEIR BABY TEETH



EVERY YEAR, 
40 >> 60
BABIES IN AOTEAROA DIE FROM SUDI



Understanding Wahakura and Pēpi Pod Usage to Prevent SUDI Deaths

Dr Charmaine Barber (Ngāti Kahungunu ki Te Wairoa),
Professor Barry Taylor — University of Otago

Every year, 40—60 babies in Aotearoa die from SUDI, with Māori pēpi disproportionately affected. Wahakura and Pēpi Pods are culturally appropriate, life saving in bed sleep spaces proven to be as safe as bassinets, yet many whānau stop using them during the highest risk months.

By working alongside over 300 whānau to understand barriers and support consistent use, this research aims to save lives and address one of Aotearoa's most serious health inequities.

[READ MORE >>](#)

Fundraising highlights and donor acknowledgements

NZ goes red for Red Nose Day

Red Nose Day returned in July, with schools, businesses, community groups and individuals across the country getting involved and going red in support of child health research.

From Lucca bravely sharing her story as a cancer survivor on live television, to teachers being dunked in slime, shared meals, bake sales, red-themed dress ups and classic fundraising games, New Zealand found creative and meaningful ways to take part.

New Shoots Westgate embraced the spirit of the day with a full programme of activities, from rainbow outfits and wacky hair to playful dares and a visit from Professor CK. The result was a day filled with laughter and generosity.

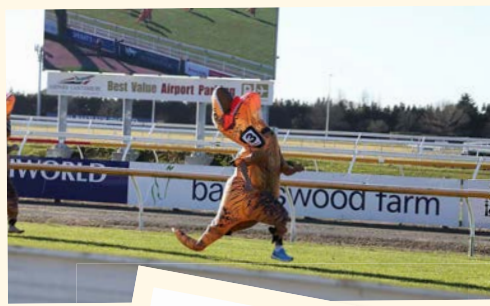
In Christchurch, Riccarton Park hosted the Red Nose Day Races on 28 July, raising more than \$80,000 on the day. A highlight of the event was the dino derby featuring punters dressed in dino costumes and racing to the finish line.

Our heartfelt thanks go to everyone who took part, donated, hosted events, and helped make Red Nose Day a collective effort in support of healthier futures for tamariki.

WATCH >>



NEW SHOOTS WESTGATE



RICCARTON PARK
RED NOSE RACE DAY
\$80,000
RAISED

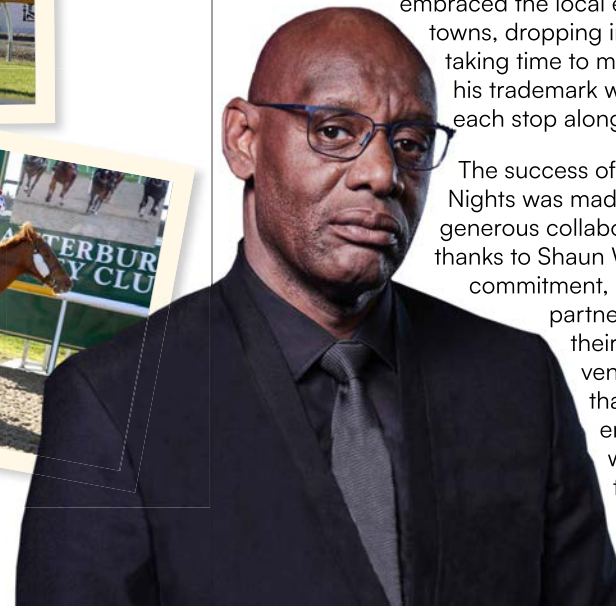


Shaun 'The Dark Destroyer' Wallace national tour

Cure Kids joined forces with quiz icon Shaun Wallace and Sky's Believe It Or Not to deliver an eight-stop Cure Kids Quiz tour across Aotearoa. From Windwhistle to Pukekohe, quiz fans gathered for a lively series of events that combined fast-paced trivia with a strong sense of community, making the tour a standout fundraising moment during the year.

A familiar and much loved visitor to New Zealand, this marked Shaun's fifth visit in six years. Between events, he embraced the local experience, exploring towns, dropping into pub quizzes, and taking time to meet supporters, bringing his trademark warmth and humour to each stop along the way.

The success of the Cure Kids Quiz Nights was made possible through generous collaboration. Our sincere thanks to Shaun Wallace for his time and commitment, Believe It Or Not for their partnership, Ticketmaster for their valued support, the venues across the motu that hosted us, and the enthusiastic quizzers who showed up ready to compete and helped make the tour such a memorable experience.



Fundraising highlights and donor acknowledgements



Buzz buzz, beep beep — Cure Kids first ever lottery

The launch of Cure Kids’ first ever lottery generated strong buzz nationwide, with the grand prize being the all-new Volkswagen ID. Buzz, alongside a \$10,000 Briscoes voucher, a \$5,000 Rebel Sport voucher, and an early bird prize of a \$10,000 Prezzy Card.

Winners were drawn from across the country, with Liz from Hamilton announced as the lucky recipient of the vehicle, and Denis from Auckland receiving the \$10,000 Prezzy Card.

Cure Kids gratefully acknowledges the partners who helped bring the lottery to life. Our sincere thanks to **Volkswagen New Zealand, Briscoe Group, Prezzy Card,** and media partner **JCDecaux** for their generosity and support in delivering this inaugural initiative.



Rebel Sport 24-Hour Team Challenge 2024

Rebel Sport teamed up for good with the 24-Hour Challenge, which returned for its third year at Eden Park. Corporate teams took on the challenge of keeping an exercise machine moving continuously for 24 hours, rotating through shifts as team spirit, passion and commitment came to the fore. With the support of **Life Fitness, the Eden Park Trust Board,** and many other businesses, the event continued to grow year on year, strengthening its place as a standout corporate fundraising challenge for Cure Kids.

The event built on 22 years of dedicated partnership between **Briscoe Group (Briscoes and Rebel Sport)** and Cure Kids, with their incredible collective efforts raising around \$1 million annually across the in-store and always on campaigns, the **Golf Day** and the **24-Hour Challenge,** to support child health research.



“Our partnership with Cure Kids is one we are incredibly proud of. Over more than two decades, Briscoes and Rebel Sport, alongside our customers and team members, have helped contribute more than \$14 million to vital child health research, which continues to demonstrate the power of collective action, purpose, and community in improving outcomes for tamariki across Aotearoa.”



Fundraising highlights and donor acknowledgements

BAYLEYS



Altogether Better

Cure Kids is a grateful Elite Partner of the Bayleys Foundation, with **Bayleys** teams across the country supporting Cure Kids through locally led fundraising initiatives that reflect the strength of their communities.

Bayleys Takapuna and Devonport hosted The Art of Giving, presenting a thoughtfully curated selection of artworks by well known artists and sculptors, including Dick and Otis Frizzell.



Golf days were held from the top to the bottom of the country, with Bayleys In The North hosting an event in Omaha, Bayleys Taranaki delivering the Summer Swing Golf Day in New Plymouth, and Bayleys Cromwell and Glenorchy hosting a golf day and Challenge Cup.

We thank the **Bayleys Foundation** and its teams nationwide for their continued commitment and shared belief in better health outcomes for children across Aotearoa.



Lucca

Lucca is a cancer survivor. At just 16 months old, she was diagnosed with a rare and aggressive cancer.

Fundraising superstars



Quinnchella Music Festival

Quinnchella was a community-led music festival held in Lake Hāwea, created in memory of Quinn McIntyre by his partner Stacey. The event reflected his love of music, community and connection, and provided an opportunity for supporters to come together in a meaningful way—raising funds for research focused on the early detection and treatment of cardiac conditions in children.

Cure Kids extends its heartfelt thanks to the McIntyre family, the Mighty Quinn Collective, performers, volunteers and everyone who supported Quinnchella. Their generosity and commitment transformed a personal loss into a powerful act of giving, helping advance research that supports better outcomes for children and families across Aotearoa.

Sydney Marathon

Through our partnership with Marathon Tours NZ, Cure Kids supporters were given the chance to participate in the Sydney Marathon. Five dedicated individuals - Ben, Maddy, Courtney, Campbell and Katie - signed up for the challenge, each with a goal to raise a minimum of \$2,500.

Fundraising highlights included the Cure Kids Wellington Open, led by passionate advocates Ben and Maddy, and the Little Lungs Lunch at Origine in Commercial Bay, championed by Courtney. Courtney's fundraising was deeply personal, inspired by her experience as a parent of a child living with cystic fibrosis.



Fundraising superstars



James Slyfield, former Cure Kids ambassador and childhood cancer survivor, now aged 19, fundraised for Cure Kids by shaving his hair.



Team Grada supported Cure Kids through Round the Bays and a quiz night fundraiser.



Bill Richardson Transport World supported Cure Kids at the George Begg Festival.



Troy Bilbrough of Beers Bacon Bros supported Cure Kids at Smoke in the Park, donating proceeds from food sales.



In its 17th year, **The Accor Team** in Queenstown once again delivered the highly anticipated quiz night, continuing the remarkable legacy of support for Cure Kids.



Avis Budget Group Christmas Golf Day at Clearwater delivered another great result in its third year with over **\$25,000 raised** and is now a must do on the calendars for Christchurch based supporters.



Redcliffs School's Battle of the Bays football competition brought the community together in support of the Redcliffs PTA and Cure Kids.



Gibbs Farm Open Air Sculpture Park welcomed Cure Kids supporters for a family day out, with picnic lunches enjoyed among sculptures and wildlife.



Rugby for Research was held at Sofitel Wellington, with guests enjoying interviews hosted by Melodie Robinson featuring Sir Graham Henry, Monalisa Codling, Shannon Willoughby, Frances Soutter and Cure Kids ambassador Finn.



A **Ladies Lunch** at Ebisu brought supporters together for an afternoon of connection, with Cure Kids ambassador parent **Jordanna** sharing her personal story.

With thanks to our partners

Platinum Partners

Platinum Partners support Cure Kids by directly funding research at the highest level. They are long-term committed partners who raise well over \$1.5 million combined each year to help fund child health research.



Founding Partner

Cure Kids was founded in 1971 by Professor Sir Bob Elliott and Dr Ron Caughey with support from Rotary in New Zealand.



Key Partners

Key Partners each contribute over \$100,000 to Cure Kids annually through fundraising activities, business service support, and high-level sponsorship.



Associate Partners

Associate Partners support Cure Kids throughout the year by providing products and services, holding their own fundraising activities, gifting a percentage of product sales, and taking part in all Cure Kids led events.



Supporting Partners



Contributing Partners



Trusts and foundations

Cure Kids is incredibly grateful for the generous support of the following Trusts and Foundations.

Aotearoa Trust

Aoraki Foundation

Bluesky Community Trust

BNZ RMBS Trust

Deutsche Bank - Tasman Beneficiary

Dragon Community Trust

Kiwi Gaming Foundation

KPS Society

Lion Foundation

Milestone Foundation

North & South Trust

Rano Community Trust

Rodmor Charitable Trust

Stewart Family Charitable Trust

The Clinton and Joy Whitley Fund

The Trinity Foundation

The Trusts Community Foundation

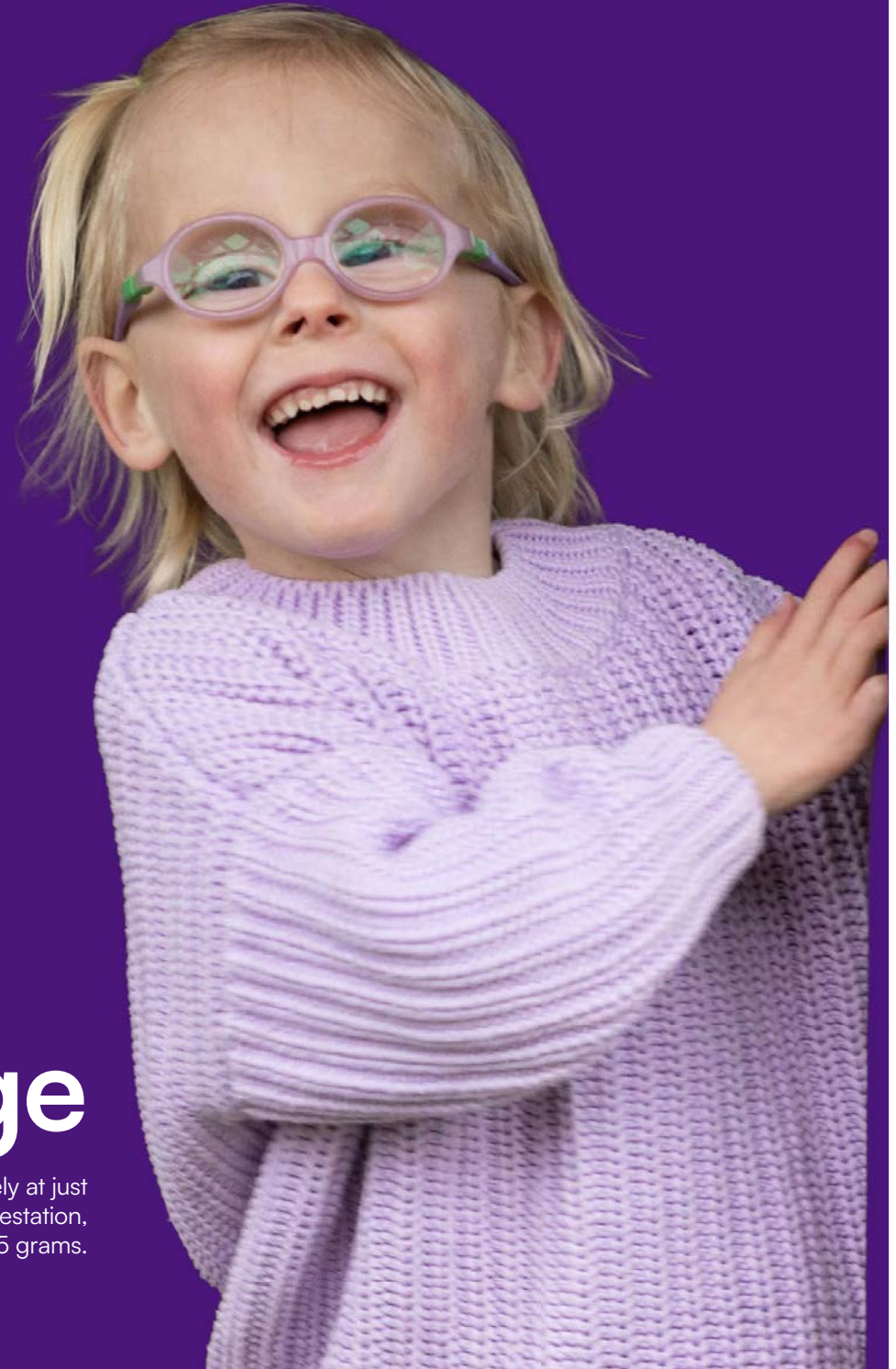
T M Hosking Charitable Trust

Vincent & Louise Noble-Campbell Trust

We also gratefully acknowledge the support of those individuals and/or organisations who wish to remain anonymous.

Paige

Paige was born prematurely at just 23 weeks and 4 days gestation, and weighing a tiny 525 grams.



Cure Kids Fiji



← Healthy hearts, happy kids. Spreading the word for a RHD-free future



Cure Kids Fiji is dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of children across Fiji. Our work is focused on addressing some of the most pressing health challenges facing young people in Fiji - particularly rheumatic heart disease (RHD) and respiratory illnesses such as pneumonia.

Through targeted programmes, strategic partnerships, and a strong commitment to clinical research and frontline delivery, we aim to strengthen health systems, improve early detection and treatment, and ultimately give every child the opportunity to thrive.

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF RHEUMATIC HEART DISEASE



Workforce Echocardiography Training for clinicians and sonographers engaged in rheumatic heart disease (RHD) screening, November 2025, CWM Hospital, Suva, Fiji



Antenatal Screening Training for midwives, scan technicians, and medical officers, September 2025, Labasa Hospital, Fiji.

Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD) imposes a preventable yet significant health and economic burden in Fiji, particularly among iTaukei communities, women, and the young. It is the leading disease-related cause of death for young people.

- **As of July 2025, 4,984 people in Fiji are living with RHD.** School-aged children (5–15 years) are the most affected group.
- **Mortality: Our study showed an average 71 deaths per year,** an increase from a previous study (60), with an upward trend since 2015 corresponding to expanded awareness and disease classification since the beginning of this programme.

Continued over >>

Caused by recurrent episodes of acute rheumatic fever, RHD can result in permanent and life-threatening heart damage if not detected and treated early. The Pacific region carries one of the highest burdens of RHD globally, and Fiji remains disproportionately affected.

RHD often develops silently in school-aged children, with few or no symptoms in its early stages. As a result, many young people are diagnosed only after significant complications arise, increasing the risk of long-term disability and premature death. **Our study showed an average of 71 deaths per year** attributed to RHD over the past 10 years.

In response to this urgent challenge, Cure Kids, in partnership with the New Zealand Aid Programme, the Fiji Ministry of Health, and leading researchers from Fiji, New Zealand, and Australia, supports the Fiji National RHD Prevention and Control Programme.

The programme focuses on:

- Expansion of Fiji's screening programmes and workforce training
 - School screening
 - AnteNatal screening
 - Family screening
- Study on methods for diagnosing strep throat
- Improvements to accessing care for children with RHD related illnesses
- Establishment of a patient organisation to raise awareness and deliver education on RHD

Key Results

- Between 2021 and 2025, the programme reached more than **17,600 individuals** through heart screening, strengthened diagnostic and workforce capacity, and empowered over 40 community champions to advocate for prevention and adherence.
- With support from the New Zealand Aid Programme, school-based screening has expanded into the Yasawa/Lautoka sub-division, strengthening early detection efforts in high-need communities. **Eight nurses**, which included two Divisional RHD Coordinators (North and West) and the Fiji National Coordinator - were trained to support programme delivery and coordination.
- A four-week antenatal echocardiography screening training was delivered at Labasa Divisional Hospital, focusing on the early detection of RHD in pregnant mothers through rapid echocardiography screening. **Three physicians, two sonographers, and one nurse midwife** participated in this intensive, hands-on training. As of Dec 2025, a total of 302 pregnant mothers have been screened.
- In addition, a Workforce Phase 1 training focused on the fundamentals of rapid echocardiography was delivered, resulting in **six doctors being trained** (three paediatricians, one internal medicine specialist, and two public health physicians). We are also grateful for the support of Fiji Airways, whose partnership enabled doctors to travel from Labasa to participate in this critical workforce training.

We also acknowledge with sincere appreciation the generous support of the **Fiji Water Foundation** and **Rotary Fiji**, whose contribution toward echocardiography machines continues to play a vital role in both screening and training initiatives nationwide. These machines are actively used in community outreach programmes and workforce development, strengthening diagnostic capacity and expanding access to early detection across Fiji.

This combined investment in screening and workforce development means that hundreds of children can now be screened, and individuals who might otherwise have

gone undiagnosed are being identified and connected to appropriate care and treatment.

In addition to expanding screening efforts, the programme is strengthening health system capacity through the support of key partnerships. Targeted workforce training and the provision of echocardiography equipment are enhancing diagnostic capability, improving access to timely treatment, and contributing to sustainable, long-term improvements in RHD management nationwide.

STREP A VACCINE GLOBAL CONSORTIUM (SAVAC) STUDY | GLOBAL FIGHT AGAINST RHD

The Strep A Vaccine Global Consortium (SAVAC) is an international research partnership working to accelerate the development of safe and effective vaccines against Group A Streptococcus (Strep A)—a major cause of rheumatic fever, rheumatic heart disease (RHD), skin infections, and severe invasive disease.

In Fiji, the SAVAC study contributes to global efforts by supporting **community-based and health-system research** that strengthens understanding of Strep A disease burden, transmission, and prevention in high-risk Pacific populations. The evidence generated will help inform future vaccine trials, delivery strategies, and policy decisions, ensuring that Pacific communities are represented in global vaccine development pathways.

The project formally commenced data collection on **9 February 2026**, following the successful completion of all preparatory requirements. These included securing ethics approvals, conducting site readiness assessments, and delivering comprehensive training for field teams to ensure high-quality and compliant implementation.

Study Implementation Sites

Community-based surveillance activities are currently being implemented across all designated study sites, in accordance with the approved project flow chart. **Hospital-based surveillance** is being conducted at Colonial War Memorial Hospital and Labasa Divisional Hospital, ensuring comprehensive data capture across both community and clinical settings.

In parallel with the surveillance study, a Cost of Illness (COI) Study is being undertaken at both community and hospital sites. This component aims to generate robust evidence on the economic burden associated with key conditions, including Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD), Acute Rheumatic Fever (ARF), and Invasive Group A Streptococcal infections.



Heart Heroes Fiji



RHD awareness session carried out with villagers of Davileqe Village, Kadavu in January 2026

Heart Heroes Fiji continues to play a pivotal role in strengthening the national response to rheumatic heart disease through its community outreach programmes, patient support groups, and defaulter tracing initiatives. By reaching into remote and underserved communities, the team delivers vital education on prevention, early detection, and treatment of RHD - ensuring that individuals and families are equipped with the knowledge needed to take action.

Equally important is their commitment to reconnecting with patients who have defaulted on treatment, supporting them to re-engage with care and reduce the risk of serious complications. Through culturally responsive engagement and community-based advocacy, Heart Heroes Fiji also addresses the social and environmental factors that contribute to the persistence of RHD. This people-centred approach is helping to close gaps in care and improve long-term health outcomes for vulnerable populations across Fiji.

2025 Programme Highlights

- Over **6800** individuals screened in 2025
- Early detection is crucial as undiagnosed rheumatic heart disease contributes to maternal mortality. Over **2700** pregnant mothers were screened from two divisional hospitals (Labasa and Suva)
- Over **4000** school children screened over four sub-divisions (Rewa, Labasa, Lautoka and Suva)
- **92** newly diagnosed cases **identified** and successfully linked to treatment and ongoing care services
- Expanded **school screening to Yasawa/Lautoka sub-division**, upskilled **8** nurses
- An **Antenatal Echocardiography Training**, upskilled 6 doctors (2 sonographers, 1 nurse midwife and 3 Obstetrics and Gynaecology specialists)
- **Defaulter Tracing Activity** — 51 individuals traced — 44 restarted treatment; 7 under follow-up (*Defaulter: a patient who has stopped or missed their prescribed treatment injections or appointments, despite having been diagnosed with RHD.*)
- **Continue to facilitate support groups** and awareness of acute rheumatic heart disease

DON'T MISS A BEAT | SHINE FOR WORLD HEART DAY CAMPAIGN

Cure Kids Fiji was privileged to stand alongside the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) in our collective effort to tackle heart disease and address rheumatic heart disease.

The lighting of the Grand Pacific Hotel on the evening of 1st September 2025 marked the beginning of “Heart Month”, a powerful symbol of the commitment of government, partners and communities to safeguard the health and hearts of our people. Cure Kids is grateful for the opportunity to support Fiji’s commitment by helping provide lifesaving equipment and initiatives that assist patients and their families.



Grand Pacific Hotel lights up in Red for World Heart Month

Vinaka vakalevu to the Ministry of Health and Medical Services and to Robert Clark, General Manager of the Grand Pacific Hotel, for their partnership in making the light-up of GPH a successful occasion.

NO CHILD SHOULD DIE FOR LACK OF OXYGEN — FIJI OXYGEN PROGRAMME

No child or person should lose their life due to a lack of oxygen. Severe pneumonia remains the leading cause of child mortality globally, and timely oxygen therapy can reduce the risk of death by up to 35 percent. In Fiji, close to 200 children under the age of five die each year, many from preventable or treatable respiratory conditions.

Beyond pneumonia, other serious respiratory illnesses such as asthma frequently require oxygen therapy. The World Health Organization also recommends oxygen treatment for premature and critically ill newborns as an essential component of neonatal care. Despite the significant burden of respiratory disease in Fiji, access to medical oxygen has historically been costly and logistically challenging, particularly across geographically dispersed and resource-limited settings.

Since 2016, Cure Kids has partnered with the Fiji Ministry of Health and the University of Auckland to strengthen access to sustainable oxygen systems throughout Fiji's healthcare facilities. This long-standing collaboration focuses on improving the management of oxygen-dependent conditions in children, including pneumonia, while enhancing the availability, affordability, and appropriate clinical use of oxygen nationwide.

CONTROL AND PREVENTION OF RHEUMATIC HEART DISEASE 2025 Programme Highlights

RHEUMATIC HEART DISEASE

Over **6,800** individuals screened in 2025



Early detection is crucial as undiagnosed rheumatic heart disease contributes to maternal mortality



Over **2,700** pregnant mothers screened

RHEUMATIC HEART DISEASE

Over **4,000** School children screened > **92** newly diagnosed cases identified...



>



...and linked to treatment and ongoing care services

ANTENATAL ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY TRAINING

Upskilled **6** Doctors **2** Sonographers
1 Nurse midwife **3** Obstetrics and Gynaecology specialists

EXPANDED SCHOOL SCREENING

8 Nurses upskilled



DEFAULTER TRACING ACTIVITIES

51 individuals were traced **44** restarted treatment **7** under follow-up



Defaulter: A patient who has stopped or missed their prescribed treatment injections or appointments, despite having been diagnosed with RHD.

Through continued investment in systems strengthening, training, and infrastructure, the programme is contributing to improved clinical outcomes and building a more resilient health system capable of delivering life-saving oxygen therapy to the children who need it most.

2025 Programme Highlights

- To date, the programme has purchased and distributed over **\$1.1m oxygen equipment** and consumables and treated over **90,000 patients** across Fiji
- Continue to power **16 health facilities** equipped with photovoltaic solar power systems to power oxygen concentrators in vulnerable coastal areas
- Solarised **4** new health facilities - Korotasere Health Centre, Yanuya Nursing Station, Yaqeta Nursing Station **and Lomaloma Subdivisional Hospital our largest installation to date**
- Supported **57** patients with at home oxygen therapy, and provided training to their carers on the effective use of oxygen concentrators
- Reached **197** participants under the Climate Change & Respiratory Health activity, strengthening awareness of the link between climate change, air quality, and respiratory health, while improving community understanding and health system preparedness
- Installed **56** air quality monitoring devices to support environmental surveillance

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACT ON RESPIRATORY HEALTH

The Climate Change and Respiratory Health activity that aims to focus on the intersection of climate change and respiratory health was successfully implemented across Fiji's Eastern, Northern, and Western Divisions. A total of **197 participants** were reached. The awareness sessions strengthened the link between climate change, air quality, and respiratory health. It also contributed to improved community understanding, enhanced diagnostic awareness and monitoring, and increased preparedness of health facilities and their staff to respond to climate-sensitive respiratory conditions.

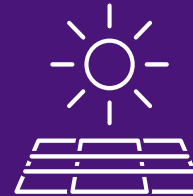
FIJI OXYGEN AND RESPIRATORY HEALTH PROGRAMME 2025 Programme Highlights

To date, the programme has purchased and distributed over **\$1.1m** oxygen equipment and consumables, and treated over **90,000** patients across Fiji

Continue to power **16** health facilities equipped with photovoltaic solar power systems to power oxygen concentrators in vulnerable coastal areas



Solarised **4** new health facilities



Korotasere Health Centre, Yanuya Nursing Station, Yaqeta Nursing Station and Lomaloma Subdivisional Hospital

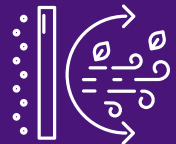
Reached **197** participants under the Climate Change & Respiratory Health activity



Supported **57** patients with at home oxygen therapy, and provided training to their carers on the effective use of oxygen concentrators



Installed **56** air quality monitoring devices to support environmental surveillance



In addition to the training component, a total of **56 air quality monitoring devices** were installed to strengthen environmental surveillance and evidence-based response.

This project is delivered through a collaborative partnership between Cure Kids Fiji, Live & Learn Environmental Education, Fiji National University, the University of Auckland, and the Fiji Ministry of Health.

The initiative is funded through the Manaaki Climate Fund, an initiative of the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), which aims to enhance community-level resilience by ensuring climate finance reaches communities and supports climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts.



Solar installation - Lomaloma, Vanua Balavu, Lau



Recruitment of participants for the Climate Change and Respiratory Health activity in Lomaloma, Vanua Balavu, Lau



Commissioning, signing and handing over of newly solarised health facilities to Fiji Ministry of Health and Medical Services



Installation of air quality devices



FIJI AIRWAYS | PARTNERSHIP

We are deeply grateful for our valued partnership with Fiji Airways.

As the Official Airline Partner of Cure Kids Fiji, Fiji Airways is doing more than connecting Fiji to the world — this partnership is actively strengthening the reach and impact of critical programmes such as the Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD) Programme and the Fiji Oxygen Programme. Together, we are helping ensure that essential health services, skills, and expertise reach the communities that need them most.

Through this collaboration, Cure Kids Fiji is able to fly in specialist trainers from overseas to Fiji to deliver essential clinical training, equipping local healthcare professionals with the knowledge and skills to strengthen early detection, treatment, and long-term care. The partnership has also enabled doctors from different divisions to travel for key workforce training opportunities, ensuring that expertise is shared equitably across regions and that geography does not limit professional development.

Fiji Airways' continued support also allows the Cure Kids Fiji team to travel domestically and internationally for outreach activities, training sessions, and programme implementation. In a geographically dispersed country like Fiji, mobility is more than convenience — it is access. It enables services to reach remote communities, strengthens frontline health workers, and supports earlier identification and intervention for children in need.

At its heart, this partnership is about opportunity and access — access to knowledge, to care, and to better health outcomes. We sincerely value Fiji Airways' commitment to walking alongside us as we work toward a future where every child in Fiji has the chance to live a healthy and thriving life.



BIG DRIVES FOR LITTLE LIVES FIJI OPEN

Cure Kids Fiji hosted its *Big Drives for Little Lives Fiji Open* at the Denarau Golf and Racquet Club, bringing together corporate partners, community supporters, and golf enthusiasts in support of child health in Fiji. The event successfully raised over FJD \$37,500.

Funds raised from the tournament support the Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD) Programme and the Fiji Oxygen Programme.

The success of the tournament reflected the collective commitment of our sponsors, participating teams, players, and volunteers, whose generosity and enthusiasm made the event possible. Through their support, we were able to expand screening activities, strengthen workforce training, and extend outreach efforts to communities across the country, particularly in rural and remote areas.

We extend our sincere appreciation and *vinaka vakalevu* to all sponsors and participants who contributed to the success of this event.

THE TOURNAMENT RAISED OVER
FJD \$37,500



OVER FJD \$170,000 RAISED TO SUPPORT THE FIJI OXYGEN PROGRAMME

Twenty-three cyclists from New Zealand and Australia embarked on a challenging 500km ride, circumnavigating Viti Levu, Fiji's main island over four-days in July, to raise funds for the Cure Kids Fiji Oxygen Project. Over FJD170,000 was raised.

The funds raised from this event will continue to support the 2026 oxygen programme initiatives. A big *vinaka vakalevu* (thank you) to the sponsors who made this event possible — Mastercard, Fletcher Higgins, Kitchen Mania, Accor Hotel Group, Fiji Water Foundation and Modus Living. Since its launch in 2017, the Fiji500 bike adventure has raised over FJD 750,000.

SINCE 2017 THE EVENT HAS RAISED OVER
FJD \$750,000

PARTNER SUPPORT

Cure Kids Fiji is humbled by the committed and passionate support of our sponsors and donors, without whom our work would not be possible.

This includes:

- NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Aid Programme
- Fiji Airways
- Accor Hotels
- Fiji Water Foundation
- Fiji Water Wonderful Giving Programme
- Wallenius Wilhelmsen and Armacup
- VOMO Island Resort
- Mastercard
- Marsh Fiji

We would also like to extend special thanks to the many individuals and organisations who champion, participate in and support our events



Isabella, born prematurely with complex bowel conditions and given a fighting chance through technology from InsidesCo., a Cure Kids Ventures supported company.

Cure Kids Ventures

Cure Kids Ventures

Cure Kids Ventures (CKV) is a seed and early-stage investment fund that invests in the commercialisation of innovations in products and services with the potential to benefit child health.

CKV invests in emerging healthcare companies with products and services covering medical devices, medications, diagnostics, health information and healthcare delivery systems.

It is a predominant investor in New Zealand's seed and early stage medtech sector. CKV has established a reputation as an informed and value-added investor in the investment community.

In addition to investment funds, CKV provides investee companies with healthcare industry-specific expertise and access to industry networks.



PORTFOLIO

FUND 3 (new investing 2022 — present)



Kitea Health — Kitea Health has developed and implantable device which allows hydrocephalus sufferers to detect shunt failure from home allowing quick response and better outcomes when help is needed, and also avoiding costly unnecessary hospital visits for false alarms.



Avasa — Developed a revolutionary coupler that is set to become the new standard of care in microsurgery.



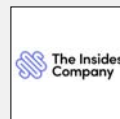
Wellumio — Brain scanning MRI requiring no shielding for rapid diagnosis and monitoring of brain injury including stroke and hypoxic ischemic insult in newborns.



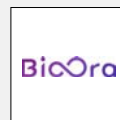
iSPYNits — A novel system for the easy identification and removal of nits and headlice.



MARS Bioimaging — Low radiation super high-resolution CT-scanner for head and limbs. Its first product focuses on lower arm where children suffer disproportionate injuries.

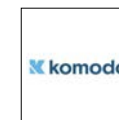


The Insides Co. — A feeding system for people suffering from intestinal failure with a pre-term baby feeding system clinically proven to dramatically improve baby's weight gains.

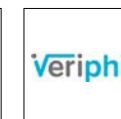
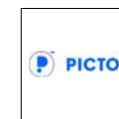


BioOra — Develops and manufactures next-generation CAR-T therapies from New Zealand. Improving access, reducing delays, and enabling safe, more scalable delivery of treatments. Targeting paediatric ALL in partnership with Cincinnati Children's Hospital.

FUND 2 (2017-2022)



FUND 1 (2007 — 2017)



Cure Kids Ventures



Cure Kids Ventures invested in Kitea Health to support the early development of an implantable sensor designed to measure brain fluid pressure in children and adults living with hydrocephalus.

The technology originated from Cure Kids—funded research at the University of Auckland, led by Professor Simon Malpas, before Cure Kids Ventures invested seed capital to support its commercialisation.

Kitea Health has now reached a significant clinical milestone. The company completed its first human trials at Auckland Hospital in 2025, involving both adults and children. With no adverse safety issues reported, Kitea Health is now progressing toward a larger clinical trial in the United States, marking an important step toward transforming how hydrocephalus is monitored and managed for children and their families.



Cure Kids Ventures provided early investment in BioOra to help establish the foundations for next-generation cancer therapies, with the goal of improving outcomes for children with cancer.

In 2025, BioOra focused on building the capability needed to support clinical progress. This included expanding its specialist workforce, increasing manufacturing capacity, and establishing additional facilities in Christchurch. These are essential steps in translating complex science into treatments that can be delivered safely and consistently.



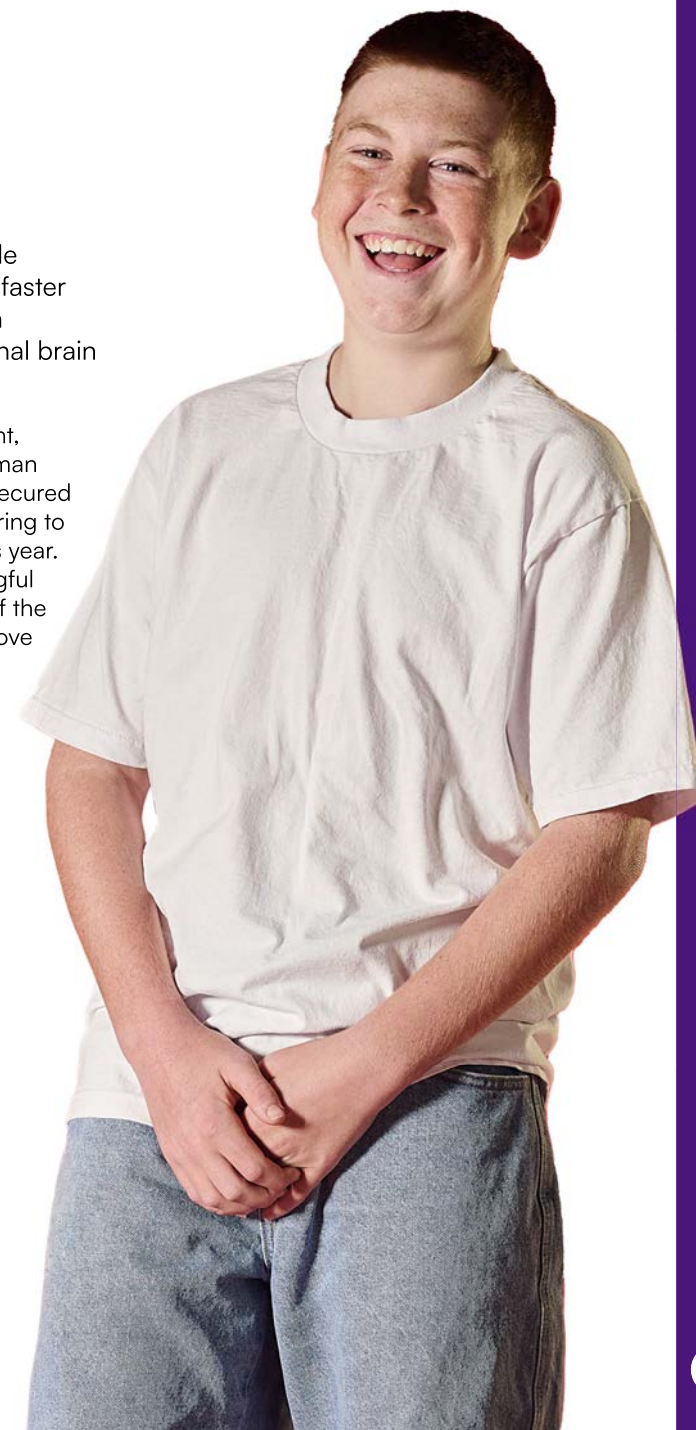
Cure Kids Ventures invested early in ISpy Nits to support a practical, science-led solution for families managing head lice. The product uses glow technology to make lice eggs easier to detect, helping parents act with confidence and reducing stigma for children.

In 2025, ISpy Nits received approval from Medsafe, the TGA, and the FDA. The product is now sold through pharmacies across New Zealand and Australia, and a sales pilot has commenced through a network of head lice treatment clinics in the United States.



Wellumio is developing a portable neuroimaging device to support faster stroke assessment, particularly in settings where access to traditional brain imaging is limited.

Since Cure Kids Ventures' investment, Wellumio has completed its first human trials at Royal Melbourne Hospital, secured a United States patent, and is preparing to begin Phase 2 clinical trials later this year. These milestones represent meaningful progress toward clinical validation of the technology and its potential to improve access to timely stroke assessment.





Scan to donate
and support
**Big Research for
Little Lives**

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Message from the Chair

Tony Whitton



I am proud to introduce this Annual Impact Report, which reflects the contribution Cure Kids Fiji continues to make to the health and wellbeing of children across Fiji.

Fiji has made significant progress in protecting children from disease and responding to public health threats. The country benefits from dedicated clinicians, public health leadership, and a health system that has demonstrated resilience through pandemics and other shocks. At the same time, ongoing economic pressures, constrained resources, and the growing impacts of climate change continue to place strain on families and on our health services—particularly for children in vulnerable and remote communities.

I am incredibly proud of Cure Kids' Fiji team and leadership, and of our approach shaped over many years of genuine partnership. We do not work around the health system; we work within it. We walk alongside clinicians, nurses, and health leaders to strengthen services, increase impact, and build sustainable, Fiji led solutions. Our focus is on developing in country capacity and supporting national leadership, so that gains in child health are lasting.

None of this would be possible without the trust, collaboration, and generosity of our partners and supporters. I would like to acknowledge the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), the Fiji Ministry of Health and Medical Services, and our valued donors and partners

including Fiji Water Foundation, Fiji Airways, Accor Hotels, Vomo Island Resort, Rosie Holidays, Wallenius Wilhelmsen and Armacup, Marsh and Mastercard and many others who continue to believe in and support our mission.

In 2025, Cure Kids Fiji took on new child health challenges. As the impacts of climate change on children's health become increasingly evident, we worked closely with our Fijian partners to strengthen climate resilient health services, including the installation of solar energy systems in four health facilities. We also deepened our support to better diagnose strep throat and acute rheumatic fever, complementing our ongoing rheumatic heart disease screening by improving early diagnosis and prevention—critical steps toward reducing long-term disease and inequity.

This report highlights what is possible when partnerships are built on trust, shared purpose, and long-term commitment. I am deeply proud of what Cure Kids Fiji and our partners have achieved, and I look forward to the continued impact we can make together for the children of Fiji.

In closing can I also express my sincere gratitude to the Board of Directors of Cure Kids Fiji for your service, wise counsel, and the many hours you have contributed at board meetings and being out in the community to raise funds and awareness of our programs.

Tony Whitton
Cure Kids Fiji Chair