

heart to heart

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF **CHILDHOOD CANCER SUPPORT** ♥ FOR FAMILIES, BY FAMILIES



PATRON

His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC,
Governor of Queensland

AMBASSADOR

Laura Geitz
Captain – Australian Netball Team
Captain – Queensland Firebirds Netball Team

CORPORATE AMBASSADOR

Josie Thomson

FAMILY AMBASSADORS

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Trevor & Tracey Rethamel | Townsville |
| Bert Pulman | Mackay |
| Casey Lindsay | Mackay |
| Tracey Single | Mackay |
| Anthony & Tamsyn Kiely | Rockhampton |
| Alan and Reniet Sanders | Stanthorpe |
| Nathan Hodge | Northern NSW |
| Sam Handley | Northern NSW |

CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Trevor Rethamel | President |
| Grant Hewitt | Treasurer |
| Leigh Eagle | Interim Secretary |
| Nick Dubravcic | Committee Member |
| Bert Pulman | Committee Member |
| Casey Lindsay | Committee Member |
| Sarah Ball | Committee Member |

STAFF

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Helen Crew | General Manager |
| Gina Garza | Administration Manager |
| Judy Brennan | Family Support Officer |
| Jo Spencer | Finance Officer |
| Lucy-Kate Campbell | Marketing Administrator |
| Ray Garza | Transport Officer |

CHILDHOOD CANCER SUPPORT

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[instagram.com/childhoodcancersupportaus](https://www.instagram.com/childhoodcancersupportaus)

ABN: 45 914 790 985
Registered Charity Number: CH0767
Incorporated Association: IA08153
DGR: 900367082

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Childhood Cancer Support (CCS) Members and Supporters,

The 2016/17 Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on the 10th of September and a new Central Committee of Management (CCM) was elected.

I am pleased to announce that I have been elected President and I take this appointment as a privilege and an honour.

Grant Hewitt has been elected Treasurer and as a new member to the CCM executive. Leigh Eagle has been appointed as Secretary due to the resignation of Amanda Neilson. Leigh comes from a governance background within NFP organisations and is the ideal person for the role.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Amanda for all her hard work and dedication to Childhood Cancer Support over the years and wish her well for the future.

I am particularly excited to have Grant and Leigh supporting me on the executive and look forward to working closely with them.

Other CCM members include, Casey Lindsay, Bert Pulman, Nick Dubravcic and Sarah Ball. Both Kylie Lindsay and Jim Cooper were elected to the CCM but have since decided to step down.

This leaves two CCM positions vacant which we are looking to fill with people who can provide sound professional advice to CCS in the way of project management, media and marketing.

These two skills are vital for CCS moving forward with the redevelopment of our brand and providing accommodation on the south-side of Brisbane so our families can be closer to the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital.

The team we have are a mix of professionalism and heartfelt people needed to take CCS into the future. In saying that, CCS has some huge hurdles ahead with our relocation and the organisation can do with any help offered.

CCS will be having a huge focus on fundraising and increasing membership in the near future, therefore I am going to ask the members for assistance in two areas:

1. Fundraising: I would be grateful for any input into how funds could be raised to assist with our relocation to the south-side.
2. Membership: I am sure we all know five people who would like to be members of CCS, ask them to join and then if they know five other people interested in our organisation who may also be interested in being a member. The more members we have the better the networking opportunities will be; and the more people that know about us will help to provide bigger opportunities for financial reward to assist with providing improved services to our families.

We, CCS, pride ourselves on being a family and, as President, I will make myself approachable to any member. If anyone has any enquiries or an issue they would like to discuss, please email me on president@ccs.org.au or call me on 0488 989 804.

As mentioned above, Childhood Cancer Support has some hard work ahead of us. The CCM and staff are working hard to ensure we provide the best possible experience for our families going through the hideous disease which is childhood cancer. Our members are a huge part of our family and I look forward to hearing from you in the future.

Regards,
Trevor Rethamel
President



A MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

I caught up with some friends socially a few days ago and one of our friends advised that it is less than 10 weeks until Christmas. Surely that cannot be possible!! The countdown to Christmas is on. Our Christmas Party is scheduled for the first week in December so don't forget to Save the Date.

We have had a busy October with much activity happening at Childhood Cancer Support.

Events

We are still wrapping up the Talk Like a Pirate Day statistics, however, we have dedicated many pages of this October Heart to Heart Newsletter to pictures from our event at the Maritime Museum at South Brisbane plus pictures that our families and Ambassadors have sent us from Talk Like a Pirate Day events in their region.

We were delighted that the Queensland Health Minister, Cameron Dick, was able to attend plus Councillor for Woolloongabba, Jonathan Sri and Councillor for Central Ward, Vicki Howard. They all thoroughly enjoyed themselves and got into the spirit of Talk Like a Pirate Day. Our heartfelt thanks to them for supporting Childhood Cancer Support on our biggest awareness day of the year.

In early October, as part of the Talk Like a Pirate Day events, our Official Ambassador, Laura Geitz, on behalf of Childhood Cancer Support, visited the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital and spent some time with the children on the oncology ward and in the outpatients department. We organised

for all the children to receive gift bags with lots of goodies in them (and pirate themed). Laura received many cuddles from the children and was truly grateful to the children and families for welcoming her into their world. A huge thank you to Lady Cilento Children's Hospital for allowing CCS and Laura to come to the hospital to brighten up the children's day.

The Talk Like a Pirate Day event continues to be a happy and fun event for all concerned. Our aim is to raise the profile of Childhood Cancer Support throughout Queensland and indeed Australia and this was achieved by increased media coverage in the lead up to the event and on the day itself – 19 September.

Planning for the 2017 Talk Like a Pirate Day will commence very early with Expressions of Interest sent out by the end of 2016 and in January 2017 to schools, child care centres, corporates and businesses.

Renovations

A lot of activity has happened over the past few weeks with regard to working bees and makeovers of units. We have had a number of amazing corporate groups approach us to volunteer at our accommodation locations to help us keep up the maintenance of our units and grounds. Just last weekend we welcomed almost 100 people from Hope City Church in Toowoomba and Brisbane to a working bee which was on a massive scale. This working bee was many months in the planning and I wish to thank CCM members Bert Pulman and Nick Dubravcic for assisting in coordinating this extraordinary task. See Page 10 for more information and pictures of our makeovers.

The generosity provided by these wonderful groups of volunteers never ceases to amaze me. They are bending over backwards to assist Childhood Cancer Support and our families by making our accommodation units and the grounds even more pleasant for the families. They have just been simply the best!

To our supporters and readers, we hope you enjoy this edition of our Heart to Heart Newsletter.

Until next time,
Helen Crew
General Manager

NEW FAMILY SUPPORT OFFICER APPOINTED

Welcoming to the team at Childhood Cancer Support, Judy Brennan. We look forward to having her on the team and can't wait for you to meet her. You can read a little bit about Judy below.

Meet Judy

Throughout my working life, I worked in the welfare sector. I worked for a not-for-profit organisation assisting immigrant women escaping domestic violence. However, in the last 12 or so years, I worked with children and families with multiple and complex needs for a Queensland Department in a statutory role and I feel that in the role of Family Support Officer I will be able to assist children and their families in a much more meaningful way.

I am a mother with two children. My husband worked for Queensland Rail which changed names a few times, was eventually sold off and the workers were made redundant. Since that time, my husband hasn't been in a paid employment but has been busy working around our house.

My daughter is 17-years-old and is in her last year of high school. She is now on her red P for driving. She has been playing netball for years and she was very envious when she learnt that on my first day Laura Geitz visited CCS and I sat next to her in the CCS van on the way to the hospital.

My son is 15 and he is like a shark – not a fish – and loves swimming. He loves playing on the internet and loves all kinds of animals. He was diagnosed with autism – he has some difficulty distinguishing real world from imagination.



We also have two lovely dogs; my daughter named them Chocolate and Snowcone.

I feel privileged and honoured working for such a meaningful cause with a great bunch of people. I am looking forward to meeting all the families and their children and I will try my best to make their stay at Childhood Cancer Support as comfortable as possible.

The position of Family Support Officer was made possible by a generous grant from Perpetual Trustees.

Laura Geitz

On the 4th October, Childhood Cancer Support Ambassador and QLD Firebirds Captain Laura Geitz, alongside James Lane and David Byrne from ANZ bank, joined Childhood Cancer Support at the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital where we visited oncology families on the wards.

What a special day it was visiting families and seeing their smiles as Laura and the representatives from ANZ handed out goodie bags to the kids.

A special thank you to the families for allowing us to hang out with you on this day and to our special guests James and David. Laura - your smile is infectious and you certainly brought light and love to some beautiful families. We are proud and honoured to have you as our Ambassador, so thank you.



TALK LIKE A PIRATE DAY

Talk Like a Pirate Day™, nationally recognised as the major fundraiser for Childhood Cancer Support, is an opportunity to polish ye hook and say “AHOY there, me hearties” to all ye mateys, school crew and work mates.

Arrr me hearties! Throughout September and October schools, childcare centres, individuals and workplaces around the nation loosened their uniforms, gathered their pirate costumes and donned their best pirate voices as they hosted their very own Talk Like a Pirate Day™, all whilst raising vital funds for Childhood Cancer Support.

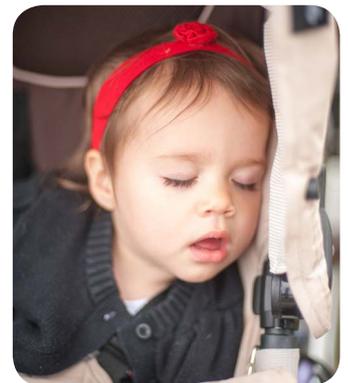
On behalf of the staff, CCM, and families of Childhood Cancer Support (CCS) we would like to thank everyone who has been a part of this year's Talk Like a Pirate Day™. Your support and involvement is greatly appreciated and we simply cannot express enough gratitude and how much we appreciate all that you have done.

If you caught our last newsletter, on September 19th we hosted our own Talk Like a Pirate Day™ at the QLD Maritime Museum (QMM)! The atmosphere of the day was spectacular and was great to see everyone enjoying themselves. We have more pics from the day to share with you, so please enjoy.

A huge thank you to Andy from Essence of Time photography for capturing the day!



Andy sitting in the Multispares V8 Racing Ute on display at the QMM on TLAPD



Health Minister, Hon. Cameron Dick



TALK LIKE A PIRATE DAY



Councillor Jonathon Sri



Councillor Vicki Howard



WHY SUPPORT?

There are many reasons why we think what we do is important, but let's give you the key five:

1. Childhood Cancer Support provides comfortable, clean, small and large sized family styled units where regional families can stay for no cost while their child receives cancer treatment.
2. Childhood Cancer Support provides more than just accommodation; we offer all oncology families a number of free services such as transport (to the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital, airport and shops), school holiday programs and access to both local and regional support networks.
3. Childhood Cancer Support never discriminates, taking in families from a wide variety of backgrounds and circumstances.
4. Childhood Cancer Support supports and provides assistance to families Queensland wide. Every dollar raised is used to benefit our families.
5. Childhood Cancer Support provides a safe haven, a home away from home. A place the whole family can go to stay during these difficult times.

FAMILY SERVICES STATS | 2015 - 2016

4341

nights of free accommodation, saving families **\$529,920**



\$26,716

provided in financial hardship assistance for pediatric oncology families



194 people accommodated, longest overall stay was **400 days**

41

families provided homes during treatment



23,292

kilometres travelled by our patient and family vehicles



\$35,196

provided in transport assistance

4796

passengers transported



MEDIA COVERAGE



2.5 million

people reached via targeted media coverage



\$362,549.20

equivalent advertising value of coverage received



39

print, radio, online and TV media clips



87.5 hours

of total public relations value from BBS

VOLUNTEER DAYS

On Saturday the 15th October, Childhood Cancer Support welcomed 100 volunteers from Hope City Church, from both Toowoomba and Brisbane campuses. This special group gave all three of our accommodation locations a blitz that included repairs, maintenance, painting, and gardening with the grounds receiving a huge makeover and clean up.

No more tired fences, units and gardens! This large team got in there and did the job and we couldn't be more thrilled with even our families being impressed by their massive efforts.

Four months in the making, this day was huge! So many smiles, laughs and sheer determination. We are so proud of our properties and this team certainly gave them a shine.

Thank you Hope City Church from the bottom of our hearts.



VOLUNTEER DAYS



GE Power



Global Private Equity

On the 14th of October we had two determined, enthusiastic and hardworking corporate groups at our Herston accommodation. The two teams helped us to prepare the grounds and property for a huge revamp and spring clean that same weekend, all for the comfort of our beautiful CCS families.

Our heartfelt thanks go to the team from GE Power for high pressure cleaning around our Allara and Thies Dempsey Houses, emptying out our Community Room to get it ready to be freshly painted, for putting up some new window blinds for a family in their unit and trimming and cleaning around the Allara building.

Another huge thank you goes to our second equally impressive team of volunteers from Global Private Equity who cleaned down our wheelchairs, prams and portable cots, did a stocktake of Kyeema 1 unit, pulled out the gerni to clean the driveways, did some gardening and helped us to put the final touches to the inside of a family unit, TDH1, in order to get it ready for a new family.

What a day! Thank you everyone involved.



TALK LIKE A PIRATE GOLF DAY

Hosted by Tamsyn and Anthony Kiely
Family Ambassadors, Rockhampton



A MESSAGE FROM TAMSYN KIELY

The first ever 'Talk Like a Pirate Golf Day' was held at Yeppoon Golf Course on Friday 23rd September. Hosted by the Kiely Family, who are Family Ambassadors for Childhood Cancer Support, this is our way to give back to a charity who helped them during the hardest time in their lives as a family.

The idea of having a Talk Like a Pirate themed golf day was first discussed earlier this year and since the idea was planted everything seemed to fall into place. We tried to ensure we honoured the kids affected by cancer by including some local children in the event. One of the ways we did this was by making the winner's trophy the Mitchell Luders Memorial Trophy in honour of Mitchell who sadly gained his wings in 2015. The winners of this trophy were 'Bert's Buccaneers' and we asked Max Hoiberg, another CQ Childhood Cancer Support kid, to present the trophy with Anthony Jr.



To say the day was a success is a huge understatement! We went out of our way to make sure everyone had a great time and we definitely think we achieved just that. Everything fell into place so well and everything about the event was a hit with everyone.

The response we got from the local community just blew us away and we are so thankful to each person who supported us. We have heard so many great comments about the day and many people have come to us asking about next year's golf day already. We had a total of 86 players on the day, 11 hole sponsors, an amazing amount of prize and product sponsors and many others that supported us that couldn't make it on the day. From the comments we received on the day we are expecting a sell-out crowd in 2017! Realistically we had a fundraising goal of \$3000 as well as a goal we dreamed of getting. When we did the final count and I realised we passed both those goals we couldn't believe it and we couldn't thank everyone enough for their support to raising this amount! We are planning something we hope will be a little special for revealing the amount to Childhood Cancer Support so can't reveal the final tally just yet.

This would not have been possible if it were not for our hole sponsors, prize and product sponsors, volunteers and of course the players and the help from the Childhood Cancer Support team. So many people were a part of making this day possible, if we were to name all of them we'd be here for a while! Knowing how much this money will mean to Childhood Cancer Support is beyond any words we could use and for that we really cannot thank everyone enough for making this day such a success.

We cannot wait for next year's Talk Like a Pirate Golf Day!!!



HALLOWEEN BBQ

When: 28th October
Where: Childhood Cancer Support,
Herston Campus

BBQ FOR SOPHIA

Third Party Fundraiser
When: 12th November 2016
Where: Pomona IGA

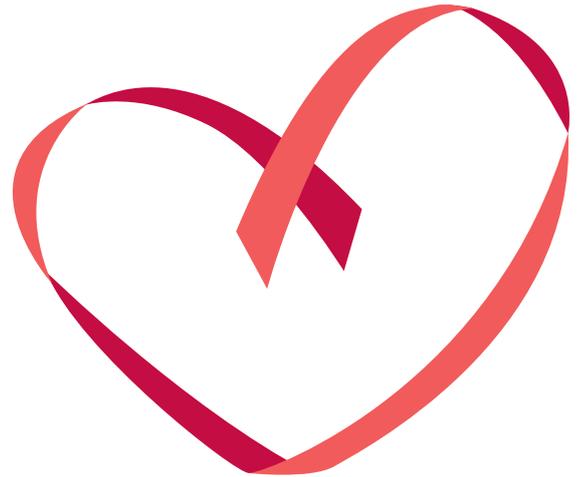
COFFEE FOR CANCER

Third Party Fundraiser
When: 26th December 2016
Where: Sydney CBD

FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY

When: First week in December
Where: Vic Lucas Park, Bulimba

Contact lucy@ccs.org.au for more details.



CHILDHOOD

CANCER SUPPORT

FOR FAMILIES, BY FAMILIES

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS BLOOD SERVICE

This month the staff of Childhood Cancer Support paid a visit to the Mobile Donor Centre at Fairfield.

Did you know:

- A single blood donation can save 3 lives
- 1 in 3 Australians will need blood in their lifetime but only 1 in 30 donates

Your generous donation could save someone who is:

- battling cancer or other serious medical conditions
- recovering from surgery or an accident

Thank you to the Australian Red Cross Blood Service for the facts and for taking care of us today. Feels good to know we could help, especially knowing children with cancer often require blood transfusions and blood products throughout their cancer treatment.





You're invited to the Childhood Cancer Support Halloween BBQ!

- WHEN** Friday 28th October
- WHERE** Community Room, Herston Campus
- TIME** Kicking off from 5.30pm
- DETAILS** Tonight is a night to dress up in your best Halloween costume, relax with family and friends, and enjoy a delicious BBQ. Ray will even have his famous Halloween Pinata game!

Open to all paediatric oncology families.
We hope you will join us for a spooky night.
Please RSVP to the office by Wednesday 26th Oct for catering purposes.
P. (07) 3844 5000 | E. info@ccs.org.au





CHILDHOOD
CANCER SUPPORT

*Invites you to our
Annual Christmas Party!*

WHEN: First week in December

WHERE: Vic Lucas Park, Bulimba 4171

WHAT'S ON: Peebo and Dagwood Magic Show

Face Painting

Christmas Treasure hunt

BBQ Lunch and Snacks

Jumping Castle

Christmas Gifts

A special visit from Santa Claus himself

Plus pinata games, fairy floss, slushies, popcorn and loads more!

All paediatric oncology families are welcome. This is a free event.

RSVP for this event is a **must**, for more details please contact the office by the **31st of October** by phoning (07) 3844 5000 or email admin@ccs.org.au.

In the event of wet weather, the Christmas Party will be relocated to 11 Bramston Tce, Herston 4006.
Please check Facebook or contact the office for details.



INTRODUCING KIDS CORNER! A page dedicated to families and children of Childhood Cancer Support! If your children would like to contribute a drawing, picture, story or whatever their creative minds can think of, take a snap or scan it through to lucy@ccs.org.au, we would love to see it and showcase it in our forthcoming newsletters! Drawings can be anonymous but we would love to know where you're from, your first name, and how old you are. Childhood Cancer Support receives support from all over QLD as well as across Australia which we think is pretty cool! So kids - this page is for you!

WALKING THE PLANK IN THE WHITSUNDAYS!

By Zoe L. (11yrs) and Logan L. (7yrs) - Mackay

Calen District State College Talk like a pirate Day Captain Logan at the mighty age of 7 made his principal Mr Brian O'Neill walk the plank at his school again this year! With foam swords in hand the dual took place over a pool filled with slime! Captain Logan had the upper hand from the start. And when Captain Logan signalled his crew with a quick wave and the water bombs were fired at Mr O'Neill. It took no time at all to watch Mr O'Neill fall to the pool and the crowd raw with laughter!



We had the honour of making our local member of Whitsunday Mr Jason Costiagen WALK THE PLANK!

Mr Costiagen is a regular visitor to our school but he has never been seen like this before! Gone was the suit and ties in favour of a pirate outfit! Calling himself Captain Costio he lined up after the principal Mr Brian O'Neil to walk the plank! Captain Logan had more of a challenger on his hands this time with Captain Costio. He was much taller and had more fight in him than Mr O'Neil. But Captain Logan never gave up and push Captain Costio into the slime and the water bombs finished him off!

A huge thanks you to Jason Costigen and Mr Brain O'Neil who went above and beyond! You made a little boys dreams come true! Also to Calen District State College who each year enjoy the afternoon of pirate activities.

WORD SEARCH

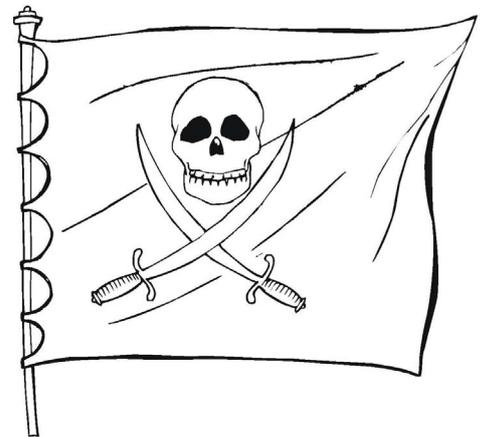
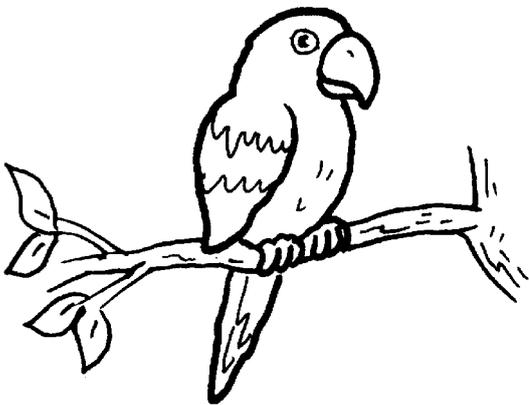
Talk Like a Pirate Day

Q K V I F L A G C K
 S E A H O O K Y S N
 V E D M P I R A T E
 Q I Y M O E A I T W
 S E C E A D G H I V
 P A W R P W C L R Y
 S L I Y E A H N E B
 H C A L Q W T A G G
 I R K N I M A C J F
 P W P W K L H P H W

PIRATE
 EYEPATCH
 SHIP
 PLANK
 FLAG
 CREW
 PEGLEG
 HOOK
 SAIL
 SEA

Created by Paige L. (10yrs) - Mackay

COLOUR ME IN



Printed from busybeekidsprintables.com

ESSENCE OF TIME
PHOTOGRAPHY

FREE PHOTOSHOOTS

Living in an unfamiliar city for an uncertain period of time, when your child has recently been diagnosed with cancer, is not an ideal situation for anyone. It can be hard to find a "home away from home", and building close support networks within your immediate vicinity can take time.

That's why Childhood Cancer Support has teamed up with generous supporter Andy Graves from Essence of Time Photography, who has put together a photography program for both Childhood Cancer Support families and non-families who have children with cancer.

Professional photography can be beneficial in numerous ways, from allowing families to decorate their temporary lodgings with some beautiful family shots, to enjoying the therapeutic process of photography itself.



If you're interested in utilising Andy's services, please contact the Childhood Cancer Support reception and secure a spot.
Phone 07 3844 5000 or email info@ccs.org.au.
To see more work by the Essence of Time Photography, go to www.essenceoftime.com.au

Want to make a REAL DIFFERENCE?



CHILDHOOD
CANCER SUPPORT

Become a Heartfelt Supporter for Childhood Cancer Support

Heartfelt Supporters play a huge role in allowing Childhood Cancer Support to continue providing the facilities and services that families need. Our Heartfelt Supporters help us immensely in providing accommodation, maintenance and improvements, transport services and assisting campaign initiatives.

A Heartfelt Supporter of Childhood Cancer Support agrees to make an ongoing monthly donation, starting at a minimum amount of \$10. Your monthly donation will commence on the 1st each month and continue until further notice from you.

All donations are tax deductible.

Sign up today at
www.ccs.org.au/howcanyouhelp/heartfelt-supporter/



Childhood

CANCER SUPPORT

**When your child is diagnosed with cancer,
everything else in life takes a backseat.**

Childhood Cancer Support provides something that every family needs in a crisis – a home away from home for the whole family; a place where the whole family can be together during a very challenging time.

Childhood Cancer Support is one of a kind – a family focused charity offering regional families a place to call home while their child is undergoing life-saving treatment.

**TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT
CHILDHOOD CANCER SUPPORT**

www.ccs.org.au

**MAKE A DONATION
BECOME A VOLUNTEER**