



Our Impact 2024-25

Variety - the Children's
Charity of Queensland

**Creating a Future
Without Limits**

MADE POSSIBLE, THANKS TO YOU



When children who are sick, experiencing disadvantage, or living with a disability are left with nowhere else to turn, we provide the critical help and hope they thought was out of reach.

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OUR VISION

A world where **every child** can thrive, belong, and reach their full potential, regardless of disability or circumstance.

OUR MISSION

We empower children who are sick, experiencing disadvantage, or living with disabilities through life-changing programs that provide **medical care, mobility, education, and support** to live without limits.

Our Values

- * Every Child Deserves to Thrive
- * Change Takes All Of Us
- * Quality Care Starts With Compassion
- * We Care for Caregivers
- * Inclusion is a Non-Negotiable
- * We Show Up When It Matters Most
- * Joy Is Essential



Thank you from our Chair

This year has been one of incredible progress, purpose, and pride for Variety Queensland. Together, we have strengthened our organisation's foundations, built greater alignment between board strategy and operations, and delivered meaningful impact to children and families right across the state and our journeys through Australia.

Through our grants, scholarships, programs, and experiences, **11,533** children have been directly supported and positively impacted this year. This achievement reflects the unwavering dedication of our members, supporters, volunteers, and staff who bring the Variety mission to life every day.

Financially, we have proudly distributed **\$868,597** in grants across Queensland and interstate, ensuring assistance reaches children in metropolitan, regional, and remote communities. From providing vital equipment and educational resources to supporting inclusive school programs and individual needs, these contributions continue to change lives and open doors for kids who need it most.

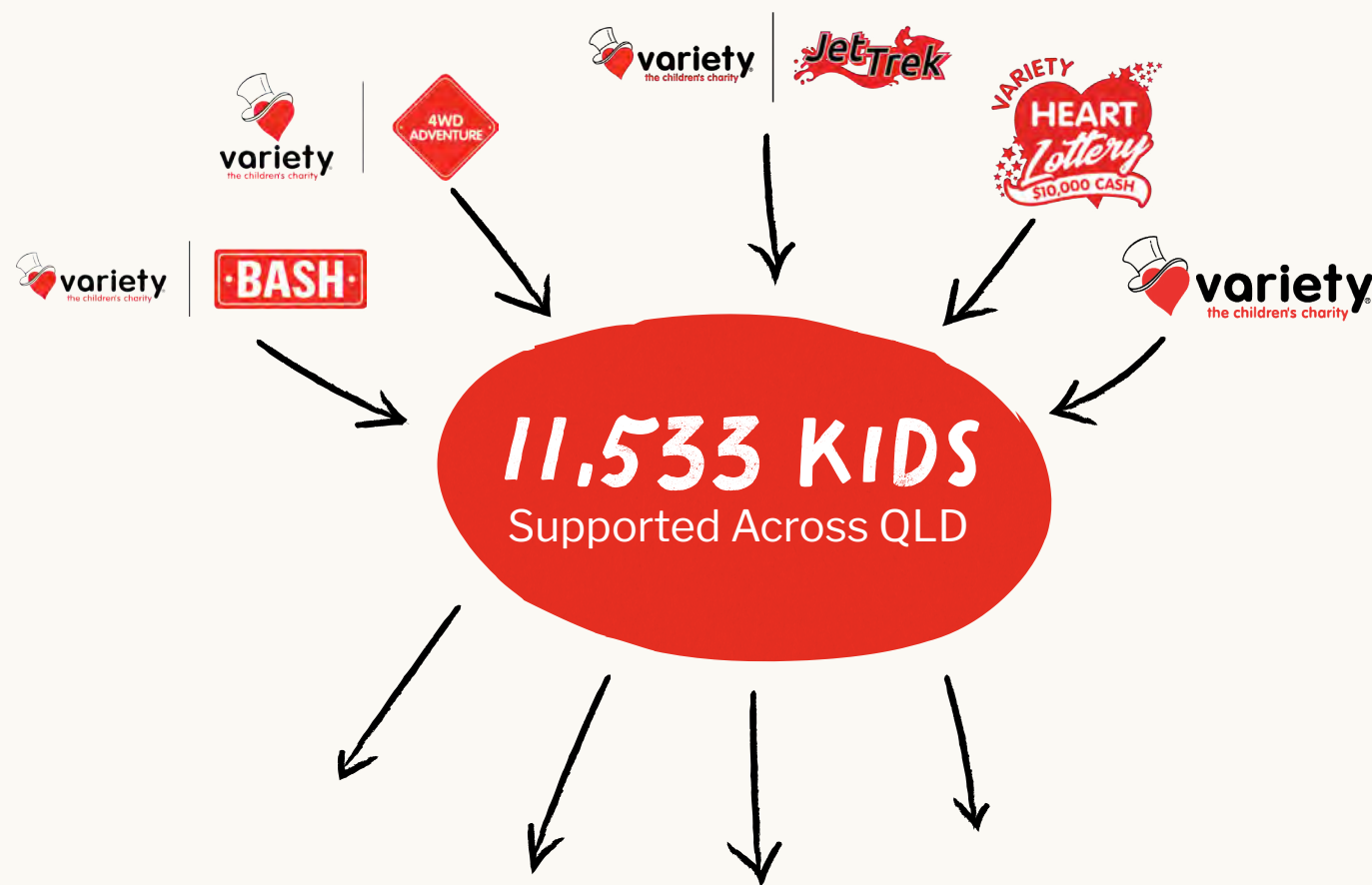
Operationally, our team and board have worked hand in hand to deliver a strong 2025–2026 budget and operational plan aligned with our long-term Strategic Plan. We've introduced improved governance tools, including a new Board Handbook, enhanced risk frameworks, and renewed commitment to transparency and accountability.

As we look to the future, we remain focussed on growing our reach, strengthening partnerships, and ensuring Variety Queensland continues to be a trusted, impactful, and community driven organisation, one that helps all Queensland and Aussie kids attain their full potential. Our shared vision remains clear:

To create a world where every child can thrive, belong, and reach their full potential, regardless of disability or circumstance.

Viv Coleman
Board Chair, Variety – the Children's Charity of Queensland

We Empower Children to *Live Without Limits*



GRANTS

We deliver practical help with mobility aids, accessibility equipment, educational tools and technology, learning support, health-related equipment, and safety resources.

SCHOLARSHIPS

We support kids with an existing talent across the arts, education, and sport, so they can reach their full potential and follow their dreams.

PROGRAMS

We offer inclusive programs to encourage participation, providing opportunities for kids to shine.

EXPERIENCES

We host events where kids can make new friends, have fun, relax, and create special memories with their families.

Building a Brighter Future Takes All of Us

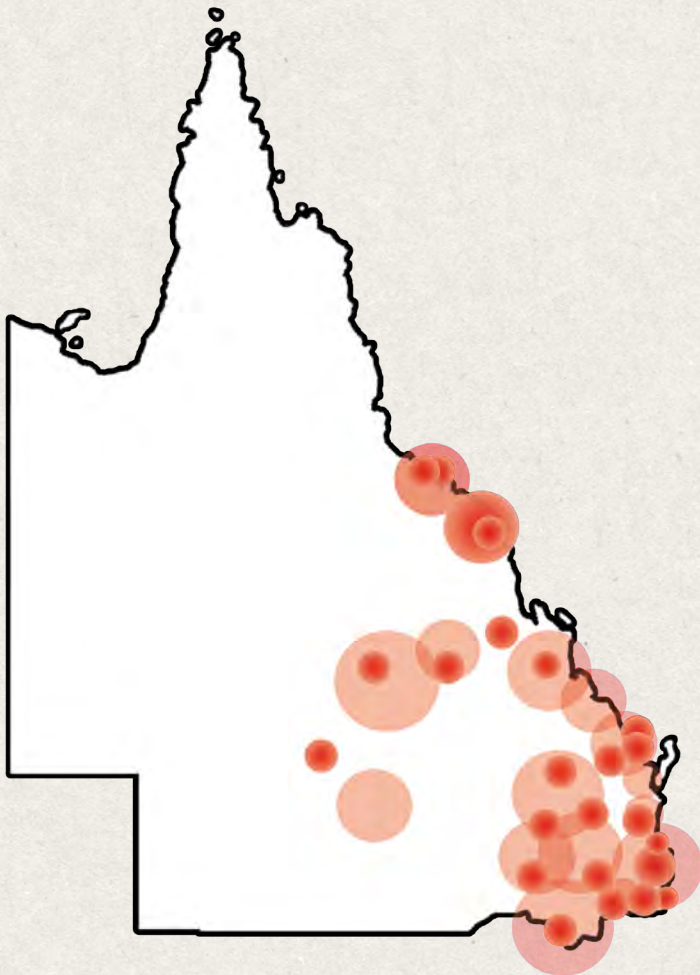
What Our Impact Looks Like

Variety's support is often in the form of practical items like Tatum's insulin pump (see pages 12-13) – a life-changing medical device that her family could not get through the NDIS. Today, an unprecedented number of families continue to seek assistance from Variety. While we can attribute some of this to gaps within the NDIS, it's clear that heightened financial burdens due to the ongoing cost-of-living crisis are having a big impact too.



2024 - 2025 Impact Map

● General
Variety Grants



Impact Highlights



\$4,683**South Ripley**
Paediatric buggy and accessories



\$7,750**Chinchilla**
Low gain hearing aids and mic



\$30,000**Townsville**
Variety Learning Centre (Cowboys House)



\$5,800**Bundaberg/Ipswich**
Recliners for NICU hospitals



\$24,183**Brisbane**
Eye gaze machine (Special School)



\$2,244**Charleville**
Water bubbler for remote school kids



\$30,000**Sarina**
Inclusive learning annual camp



\$100,000**All of QLD**
Financial Literacy



\$8,000**Toowoomba**
Sporting assistance (Special School)



\$40,000**All of QLD**
Abilities Unleashed Sports Days

MEET CHLOE



Chloe is a bright, determined 14-year-old

who's received a **Variety Heart Scholarship** to support her sporting dreams in swimming and triathlon.

When Chloe's mum, Emma, sent us a photo of her daughter grinning from ear to ear, she wrote: "Thank you very much for giving this opportunity to Chloe. This is going to make a huge difference."

And it truly will.

At just two years old, Chloe was diagnosed with cancer. The treatment that saved her life also left her with long-term side effects – neuropathy, impaired muscle strength, and restricted movement in her ankles. She had to learn to walk all over again, one determined step at a time.

But if there's one thing Chloe's known for, it's her unstoppable spirit.

Her mum describes her as "The most giving, happy child who shows joy and determination in everything she does. She never quits, no matter how many times she gets beaten or told she's not good enough."

This year, Chloe was classified as a multiclass swimmer, and it's changed everything. Her confidence has soared, and her love for sport has only grown stronger. She's now setting her sights high – aiming for age-group nationals, open nationals in Melbourne, and even Queensland Schools state triathlon championships.

With her Variety Heart Scholarship, Chloe can now access the same gear her peers use – a proper racing bike, a new race suit, and the support to travel and compete in more events. It takes a huge weight off her family's shoulders and opens up opportunities that once felt out of reach.

We provided this scholarship – made possible, thanks to you – because every child deserves the chance to chase their dreams. And that's something worth cheering for!

Tatum is 12, energetic, outdoorsy and full of grit.

She also lives with Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia, a condition she was born with. Her adrenal glands don't produce cortisol, so every day is carefully structured around lifesaving medication.



MEET TATUM

Her mum, Breeanne, explains what this looks like for their family.

"A typical day involves first round of medication at midnight. Next round of medication is at 5am. Then we normally wake the kids up and start getting ready for school. Tatum has another round of medication at 6am. Then she goes off to school. She has another round of medication at 1pm at school, then back home we try to wind down for the afternoon – my hubby and I do 40-46 hours of work a week, each – the kids come home, and Tatum has another round of medication at 6pm. And then we start the cycle all over again at midnight."

That relentless schedule has taken a toll. "My husband and I share the midnight dosing schedule but after 12 years our bodies are starting to feel the toll of the broken sleep patterns," Breeanne says.

Tatum also manages fatty liver and school anxiety linked to her medication routine. Her endocrinologist recommended an insulin pump to help stabilise her steroid intake and give her a better quality of life. But at \$8,574, it was out of reach.

"We have a mortgage that is stretched – we are affected by the high cost of living... We also have Tatum's medication. We have to take days off work regularly...and must also travel four hours to Brisbane every six months for appointments."

Tatum is one of three siblings, and her family does everything they can to create moments of joy together. "We try to get outdoors, do a beach trip, go fishing – it's our downtime," says Breeanne.

Thanks to a Variety Queensland grant, Tatum now has her insulin pump – and it's been completely life-changing.

Breeanne shares that after some minor adjustments, things are going well for Tatum, who is currently transitioning to high school. Days are steadier, long-term leg pain has gone, eating habits are returning to normal, and best of all Tatum is able to go to bed at a normal hour and sleep through the night – along with the rest of the family.

This simple medical device provided thanks to Variety's family of fundraisers is hope in action for Tatum. It's giving her the chance to have a childhood – to grow, thrive and reach her full potential.

MEET DYLAN

Dylan is a 9-year-old with a big smile!

Despite facing significant challenges – including cystic kidney disease (which led to a transplant in May 2019), ADHD, Level 2 Autism Spectrum Disorder, hypotension, a movement disorder, and auditory processing difficulties – Dylan continues to push forward with determination.

Currently in Year 4, Dylan has been attending Learning Ladders, a specialist literacy intervention service, since February 2024. His sessions take place either in person or via Zoom. However, Dylan was relying on outdated technology – an old laptop or an iPad with a cracked screen – which often left him frustrated and limited his learning experience.

With dad on dialysis and unable to work, and the NDIS unable to fund a new device, Dylan's mum Carine reached out to Variety for support during a financially difficult time.

We were thrilled to meet Dylan and present him with a brand-new Apple MacBook Pro with 1TB of storage.

This powerful tool will help him continue his speech therapy online and support his schoolwork.

We also surprised Dylan with some toys – and discovered his musical talents! We're excited to connect him with Variety programs and events where his creativity can shine.

Dylan is committed to catching up to his peers, and it's thanks to the generosity of Variety's incredible community of supporters that we were able to lend a helping hand.

Thank you for helping us make a difference in Dylan's journey.



NRL Cowboys House



This year, a team from Variety Queensland got to visit **NRL Cowboys House** in Townsville to see how Variety's support is creating a future without limits for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.

NRL Cowboys House supports Indigenous students from some of Australia's most remote and geographically disadvantaged communities, providing much more than accommodation.

Rochelle Jones, General Manager, explains that many students arrive several years behind academically. Cowboys House focusses on giving them every chance to catch up and excel – from academic support and health and wellbeing, to cultural activities, work readiness, and practical needs like MyGov accounts and driver's licences.

"They have to move away from home and family which is a very big challenge," Rochelle explains. "They graduate school, and they graduate as confident young people – and they're ready for employment. So, I feel that pride they have in themselves – and the opportunity to make change for family, and our country, really."

Variety helps fund the girls Learning Centre, where the Variety team met students including Pia, who started at Cowboys House five years ago. "I play rugby league and rugby union. I'm designing our NAIDOC shirt at school. After school, I want to be a mechanic – diesel fitting. I'm going to start my school-based apprenticeship next term."

For Rochelle, building confidence is at the heart of their work. "Once you feel like you're a successful learner, your confidence grows, and you have hope that your future will be bright and one you've chosen to be a part of."

The students' generosity, resilience and big-heartedness shine through every interaction – qualities that make them strong advocates for change in their schools and communities. As Rochelle says, "I just think the fact that the heart is there...the heart is what we're about with Cowboys House. Our values really align."

Variety Queensland is truly proud to be partners of Cowboys House!



Our Grants

Practical help to kids and their communities when they need it most.

This year, Variety QLD hit the road and the water with three major motoring events. In March, the **Yamaha Variety Jet Trek** made its way around Tasmania, opening up new opportunities for **277 children**. May saw the **Variety Red Centre 4WD Adventure** explore the Northern Territory, supporting **154 children** through vital grants. And in August, the **QLD Variety Bash** travelled from St George to Port Macquarie via Adelaide, with **12 grants** presented, impacting **610 children**!

We gave out many other grants this year, including **EduKids** and **FUNDamentals** grants, providing a lifeline for disadvantaged families and schools across Queensland.



BREWARRINA CENTRAL SCHOOL

At Brewarrina Central School, every child is known, valued and cared for. The team here sets high expectations and walks alongside each student to help them learn in a supportive, culturally responsive environment.

Many students experience hearing loss caused by Otitis Media (also known as glue ear), which can go unnoticed until symptoms become severe. In a remote community, these challenges can make it harder for children to stay engaged and feel confident in the classroom.

Thanks to a \$16,000 grant delivered during the 2025 QLD Variety Bash, the school now has hearing towers in every classroom. These systems transmit sound directly to hearing aids and cochlear implants, helping students hear clearly and stay connected to learning.

Deputy Principal Beck Williams reports, **“Thank you for supporting our school. The sound towers have made a big difference to student learning and staff wellbeing!”**

Our Scholarships

Supporting kids to pursue their dreams in sport, education and the arts.



This year, Variety QLD has supported **10 kids with Variety Heart Scholarships totalling \$50,000**. These scholarships support kids with an existing talent across the arts, education and sport, so that they can reach their full potential.

LUKE

Luke is a young person who shows what determination looks like. At just 14, he's already balancing school, competitive swimming and his role as a volunteer lifesaver with Broadbeach Surf Club. When he's not training, he's on the beach helping keep his community safe – a selfless streak his family says has always been part of who he is.

Luke is navigating Level 2 Autism along with processing and mobility challenges, yet he approaches every goal with quiet confidence. His recent achievements speak for themselves: named the 2025 Queensland School Swimming Nationals Multiclass Swimmer and the 2025 State School Swimming Male Multiclass Swimmer.

With his family facing financial pressures, covering the cost of competitions has been tough. That's where Variety Queensland stepped in. Through a \$5,000 Variety Heart Scholarship, we're helping Luke gain the experience he needs to chase his next big goals – from Queensland Championships to Australian Trials – and continue becoming the swimmer he knows he can be.

Our Programs

Inclusive programs that support kids to shine.

This year, we held **10 Variety Abilities Unleashed sports days** across Queensland in collaboration with Disability Sports Australia. **The Variety Kids Sports Camp** took place on the Gold Coast, as did our first ever **Variety Motor Mouth Camp**. These camps provided inclusive, life-changing weekends for children, their families and our volunteers. **The Variety Kids Choir** continued this year, as did our **Financial Literacy Program** run in collaboration with EY. And we gave out many **Bikes for Kids** this year, so more kids could experience the freedom, independence and joy that comes with having a set of wheels to call their own.

VARIETY MOTOR MOUTH CAMP

We recently held the very first **Variety Queensland Motor Mouth Camp**, welcoming 11 families from across the state, along with 18 incredible volunteers (including speech pathology students), and 10 passionate committee members for a weekend dedicated to kids who use Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC).

AAC includes any form of communication that helps or replaces speech.

With a fun “Shipwrecked” theme steering the adventure, the Motor Mouth Camp delivered three big days of activities that helped build confidence, spark new friendships, and open up fresh ways to communicate. For many kids, it was the first time they’d been surrounded by others just like them – and seeing adults using AAC was a powerful reminder that their voices have no limits.

As one mum put it, the result was “a very happy boy who has found his tribe”.



Our Experiences

Providing fun activities that help kids be kids.



Game Day for Rowan and the Variety Kids

This year, **Variety QLD** was proud to join the Broncos family as part of the Brisbane Broncos Charity Partner Program, sponsored by loans.com.au. A highlight was **Variety’s Game Day** (Broncos vs Warriors) where Rowan got to enjoy a very special experience.

Rowan is one of the incredible children we’ve supported over the years. In November 2020, he was thrown 15 metres from his motorbike in a horrific accident that nearly claimed his life. He sustained a traumatic brain injury and spent two weeks in an induced coma before beginning the long journey of recovery. He was left completely blind and with a severe traumatic brain injury – and spent two weeks in an induced coma before beginning the long journey of recovery.

After all the challenges Rowan and his family have faced, we were thrilled to invite them to Game Day where they enjoyed the Chairman’s Lounge, and Rowan had the once-in-a-lifetime honour of doing the coin toss and participating in an on-field interview.

Joining Rowan on Game Day were several Variety kids and their families, who enjoyed free tickets and an exciting day out.

Rowan’s mum Jill shares, “Rowan will talk about this for years to come, and he couldn’t stop smiling! To meet Sam Thaiday on the field was so cool! The whole experience was epic, and we are so thankful and so grateful. From standing on the field, to Rowan doing the coin toss and being in the Chairman’s Lounge to watch the game – **it was unbelievable! A million thanks!**”

Variety experiences are any opportunities where kids can have fun, relax, make new friends, and create special memories with their families. A highlight on our calendar is the **Children’s Christmas Party** in Brisbane, where kids get to enjoy a day of games, shows, rides (including the Variety Liberty Swing), food, presents, and many other activities. This year, **Jayden got to experience the ride of his life at Queensland Raceway thanks to Bayley Hall**, Porsche driver for McElrea Racing. And we welcomed two families, the Gatehouse Family, consisting of three siblings – Lily, Gemma and Lucas – who are vision impaired, and Miller D’Arcy and his family, on the 2025 Yamaha Variety Jet Trek.



Fundraising Events



2025 Variety Red Centre 4WD Adventure



In May, the **2025 Variety Red Centre 4WD Adventure** covered nearly 3,000km through the heart of Australia. Departing Alice Springs, the Adventurers made their way to Ross River, Mount Dare and Kulgera, travelled through Anangu land at Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, and continued on to Kings Canyon, Palm Valley and Eridunda. For many, it was a bucket-list journey – and the outback delivered in every way.

The Adventurers raised funds year-round, helping Variety provide essential support to children across central Australia. Working with Variety Northern Territory, grants were presented to communities including Yulara School and Acacia Hill School, positively impacting **154 Northern Territory children**.



2025 Yamaha Variety Jet Trek



In March, the **2025 Yamaha Variety Jet Trek** journeyed over 600km around Tasmania, launching from Hobart and travelling through Orford, Bicheno, St Helens and Launceston, before crossing the finish line in Devonport. The Jet Trekkers were on the water every day – experiencing beautiful conditions and stunning scenery, which some of the Trekkers rated as their favourite yet.

Unique to Variety Queensland, the Jet Trek remains Australia's largest personal watercraft (PWC) event. Participants fundraise throughout the year, helping Variety support children in need.

Partnering with Variety Tasmania, grants were delivered to families, two schools and a community orchard along the route – ensuring **277 Tasmanian children** felt the positive ripple effect of the 2025 Yamaha Variety Jet Trek.



2025 QLD Variety Bash



In August, the **2025 QLD Variety Bash** – our biggest fundraiser of the year – departed St George and travelled through Brewarrina, White Cliffs and Wentworth to Adelaide for the first National Bash in a decade. The return journey took the Bashers through Nhill, Deniliquin, Parkes, Tamworth to the finish line in Port Macquarie, creating countless memories along the way.

This year's Bash proudly celebrated 50 years of Variety in Australia – a milestone made possible by generations of supporters who have helped raise more than **\$700 million** to support over two million children and their families nationwide. More than **\$110 million in grants** have been approved in the past decade alone.

The 2025 event raised an incredible **\$1,680,430**, with school visits and grant presentations almost every day. In total, **12 grants** were delivered, positively impacting **610 children**.

Fundraising Events



We enjoyed a day of friendship, golf, and giving at this year's **Celebration of Friendship Golf Day**. Held at the RACV Royal Pines Resort in July, 24 teams came together not just for the love of the game, but to support kids in need. During our celebratory dinner, we heard from Tammy, a courageous Variety mum, who shared how our collective fundraising has helped her son Cruz thrive – a poignant reminder of why we do what we do.

National campaigns continued throughout the year. Queensland finalists taking part in Miss World Australia raised more collectively than any other state while also volunteering at various Variety events.

This year, our events participants raised money **year-round** for kids in need, and in more creative and ingenious ways than ever before!



Outside of our motoring events, we held our second annual **Magic Round Long Lunch** in April, marking **Variety's 50th anniversary**. We were joined by legendary NRL champions Corey Parker, Alex Glenn and Trevor 'The Axe' Gillmeister, and some very special Variety guests, Jill and Jonathan, who told us the story of how their son Rowan is thriving through sport despite a dramatic accident that changed their lives forever (see page 21).



Behind the scenes, Containers for Change continued to be an effective fundraiser. Every day – rain, hail, or blazing sun – **Paul Quarrell** collected 10-cent containers to support children who are sick, experiencing disadvantage, or living with a disability. Since 2020, he's raised **\$130,000** for Variety QLD and is on a mission to collect another million containers in just one year!



Queensland also punched above its weight through Hair with Heart. **Ayla Tuite** from Thargomindah raised an incredible **\$17,466** for the program – making her #2 on the all-time leaderboard. But she didn't stop there. Ayla also did the big chop, donating her hair to help create wigs for kids who need a boost in confidence and comfort.

Thank you to our supporters

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