



Starship Foundation Impact Report

1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024



Mihi

Tukuna te wairua hei whakarei ake
i ā mātou tamariki.

Hei arataki i ngā mahi me tō mātou
whāinga matua, he toiora hei
ngā rā ki tua.

Tōia mai te hiringa me te
ngākau māia hei whai oranga; kia
kitea te kaha o ngā whānau, ngā
kaimahi me ngā hapori e aroha nei ki
ā mātou tamariki.

Whītikiria, tiakina.

Kia kore ai e ngaro noa

Tāmaua. Kia ita. Hui e, tāiki e!

Release the spirit, to uplift our children.

To guide our work and our purpose
to ensure they have brighter futures.

Let us draw inspiration and
courage for better health; to reveal
strength in the families, the staff,
and the communities, who care
for our children.

Take hold and preserve it.

Ensure it is never lost.

Hold fast. Secure it. Draw together!
Affirm!



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Joanna Simon and Martin Wiseman

From our CEO and Chair: Transformation

It is no secret that Aotearoa New Zealand is going through a transformative time. As a result, the Starship Foundation is also going through a transformative time. We are settling into new leadership, new strategies and new focus. We've laid a strong foundation for the future by redefining our strategy, fostering a culture of innovation and strengthening our partnerships. Now, the exciting part is turning this groundwork into tangible impact.

While there have been challenges, especially in navigating a difficult economic environment, there have also been opportunities for growth and innovation. We're excited about the progress we've made and the path ahead.

Children's hospitals around the world rely on charities for help and Aotearoa New Zealand is no different. One of the most common questions we get asked is, shouldn't the government fund this? In an ideal world

yes, but it's just not the case. While it may seem that public funding should be a given, the reality is we have a funding shortfall. Thanks to our generous donors we work to fill that gap. Without you, we couldn't support the many projects, programmes, initiatives and research that are saving lives and supporting children to recover.

Every year, more than 150,000 children are treated at Starship. Some come for removal of tonsils or adenoids or to fix broken bones; some come to the Emergency Department struggling to breathe; sadly, some have open heart surgeries at just a few days old; some spend months, even years, with such serious illnesses they're unable to go home; some come from around Auckland, driven by their parents, but many come from all around the country via the Starship Air Ambulance to the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit. Starship looks after children from all over

Aotearoa New Zealand and treats some of the more minor illnesses and injuries, to the most severe.

The last 12 months have been challenging across the country, and the health sector has not been immune, with repeated calls to cut costs. Hard economic times mean it's even more important that we put the wellbeing of our children first; it cannot be said too often, that they are our future. The work we do at the Starship Foundation has never been more urgent, more critical or more relevant. We've worked hard this last year listening and learning about how we can best support the hospital and their ever-growing needs – in particular, supporting research opportunities in order to retain the best and brightest medical staff, ensuring Starship can continue to provide world-class healthcare into the future.

Amazingly, against this difficult backdrop **we raised \$19.8million, which enabled us to support the front line of New Zealand paediatric healthcare.**

It meant that amongst other things, we were able to **upskill 80 Starship staff** via courses and conferences, **fully fund 10 new positions, 11 significant pieces of equipment and 8 new refurbishments.** We have also continued to support the hospital as it undergoes the PICU expansion, and the Starship Atrium build project.

Our passionate and dedicated community of supporters of extraordinary New Zealanders spans individuals, families, organisations and corporations across Aotearoa New Zealand. We are grateful to every person who dug deep to support Starship through these times of need.

The stories and statistics in this report highlight the impact our donors' commitment makes to the patient experience, clinical care and research delivered by the hardworking medical, nursing, allied health and non-clinical teams at Starship.

We are immensely proud of the work the Starship Foundation team and Board have done working alongside our loyal donors to raise much-needed funding to improve the lives of Aotearoa New Zealand's sick and injured children, and their families.



Joanna Simon and Talo

Our values

+ AMBITION

+ INTEGRITY

+ PASSION

+ COLLABORATION

“My first year at the Foundation has been incredibly fulfilling and transformative. It has been a year of learning, building relationships with our supporters, and laying a strong foundation for the future. I’ve had the privilege of working alongside a passionate and talented team who are deeply committed to our mission.”

Joanna Simon, Starship Foundation CEO



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joanna Simon".



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Martin Wiseman".

“I’m proud of how the Foundation team led by CEO, Joanna Simon, stayed focused and resilient in a challenging fundraising environment. We’re working hard on making the Foundation a truly supporter-centric organisation that reports back to donors with hard evidence of the impact their donations make.”

Martin Wiseman, Starship Foundation Chair

Board of Trustees

2023 – 2024

Martin Wiseman (Chair)

Adrian Evans

Amy Knightley

Bryan Mogridge

Cameron Grant

Greg Williams

Jess Patten

John Beca

Michael Shepherd

Robin Skeggs

Sarah Lynds

Sharon Hunter

Simon Tipene-Adlam

Damian Tuck (PWC Consultant/
Advisor to the Board)

Dame Rosie Horton

(Founding patron)



From the Hospital:

Challenging times



Starship's Emergency Department

The past year at Starship has been complex and transformative in many ways. The winter following the Covid pandemic was one of our busiest yet, as children with delicate immune systems – who had spent much of their time at home during lockdowns – began presenting with a wide range of respiratory illnesses. Thankfully, this year has been more stable in our Emergency Department. However, the number of children visiting Starship increased significantly, with 158,134 children seeking care, a 13% rise.

As New Zealand's national children's hospital, Starship treats children from all over the country, with 50% of those admitted to our PICU coming from outside of Auckland. We are proud to have welcomed more than 100 new nurses to our team. Their arrival has been a huge help in alleviating the pressure on staff who worked tirelessly during the challenging years prior, as well as in meeting the increasing demands for our specialty services. We celebrated their arrival with a pōwhiri at Whiti Ora before they began their roles within the hospital.

This year has also been marked by significant changes in New Zealand's healthcare system, and Starship has not been exempt. Navigating the transition from regional District Health Boards to Health New Zealand (Te Whatu Ora) has been challenging. Throughout these changes, we have strived to keep our staff informed and reassure them about how these shifts may affect them. However, like many other workplaces across Aotearoa New Zealand, we too have felt the impact of tough economic times.

Despite these challenges, Starship remains an exceptional place to work, and we are incredibly proud to be part of Aotearoa New Zealand's national children's hospital. The work we do here – improving the lives of our sickest and most injured children – is something we could not do without the support of our dedicated team. In addition to providing world-class care, our groundbreaking research plays a crucial role in attracting top clinicians, helping us stay at the forefront of medical advancements. These advancements contribute to positive outcomes that will shape the future of healthcare for New Zealand's children.



Starship Child Health leadership: Jason Mareroa, Dr John Becca, Jess Patten, Greg Williams



Ringa Atawhai – new wrap around service introduced in PICU

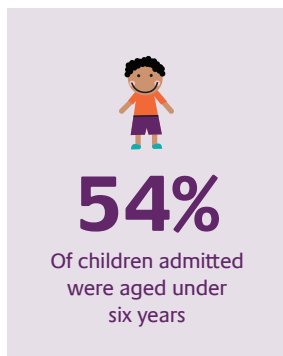
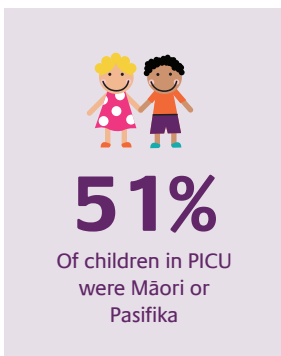
We would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks for your ongoing support of our PICU expansion. While maintaining our level of care amid a significant building project has been a challenge, the need for this new space was undeniable. It has been exciting to see the development take shape, knowing that soon Starship will offer state-of-the-art services, more bed spaces, and more areas for whānau and staff to come together. This wouldn't be possible without the kindness and generosity of New Zealanders, and for that, we are truly grateful.

We were deeply saddened by the passing of our dear friend and colleague, Toni Shepherd, Starship's Māori Health Director. Her loss is felt deeply by her whānau, TamaAriki Ora, and Starship Child Health. Toni had made incredible strides in her mission to drive change in healthcare for mokopuna and whānau, and one of her most significant contributions was the creation of Ringa Atawhai, a transformational service in our PICU. She established a team dedicated to Māori cultural needs, in her words, "by Māori, for everyone." We are committed to continuing Toni's visionary work, which was supported by the Starship Foundation.

As we look toward 2025, we are filled with gratitude for the opportunities ahead. We are also immensely thankful for the generosity of supporters like you. On behalf of the Starship tamariki, whānau, and staff, a heartfelt thank you for your ongoing support. Your commitment enables us to continually innovate, improve, and grow our services to deliver world-class, equitable outcomes for children across our country.

Helping children across Aotearoa New Zealand

Children from all over Aotearoa New Zealand come to Starship, whether it's for minor injuries or illnesses, or for the more severe and life-threatening. Starship is the centre for specialised paediatric healthcare. This past year was busier than ever. 158,134 children came to Starship for treatment, a 13% surge on last year.



What we raised

Thanks to the incredible generosity of individuals, businesses and the community, we've raised \$19,864,176. Your contributions have helped support a range of projects that help to deliver a lasting positive impact at Starship.

We also responsibly invested our bequest endowment, and specified funds, in managed fund portfolios, which generated above market returns. These returns, along with fundraising efforts, help to grow the organisation and deliver our mission.

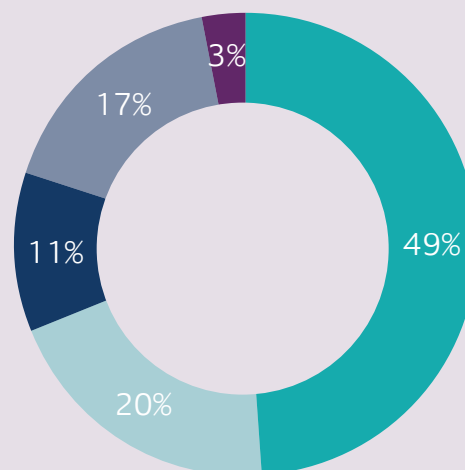


Boarding Starship's Air Ambulance

What we raised together:
\$19,864,176

Gifts in kind:
\$1,005,208

Gifts of goods and services have assisted in the areas of fundraising programmes, administration and hospital gifts.



KEY

- Public Donations – 49%
- Gifts in Wills – 20%
- Trusts and Foundations – 11%
- Investments – 17%
- Sponsorship – 3%

This year our donors helped us to generate \$19.8 million to help support real and meaningful child healthcare projects that deliver lasting positive impact everyday.

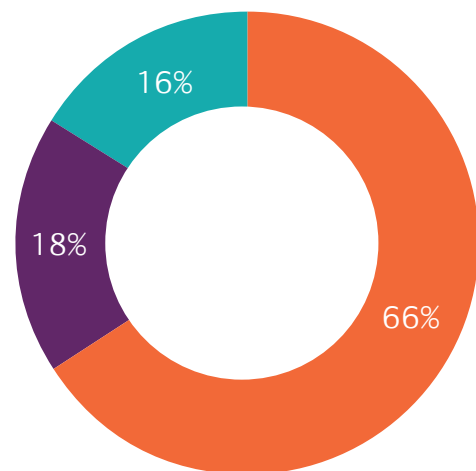
How we put your generosity to work

With your generous support, every \$1 spent on fundraising, operating costs and governance has generated \$2.94 this year. Of this, \$10,003,495 has been directed into projects supporting Starship to enhance clinical care, research and improving the patient experience.

Our focus to expand our support for Starship Children’s Health and to create a lasting, meaningful impact, is underpinned by our strategy. This includes retaining and developing expert staff, improving our operating model, promoting our national brand story and growing our revenue streams.

KEY

- Accelerating clinical care, research, patient experience and growing funds for the future – 66%
- Fundraising programmes – 18%
- Governance and operating costs – 16%



For every \$1 spent on fundraising, operating costs and governance, we generated \$2.94 this year.

Audited financial statements are available through the Charities Register www.charities.govt.nz



CLINICAL CARE

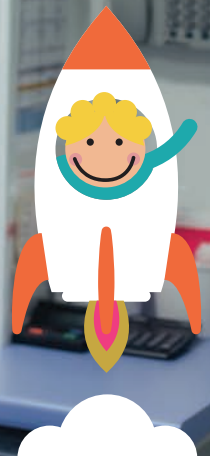


PATIENT EXPERIENCE



RESEARCH

Clinical Care



Starship nurse



Saying that you deliver the best possible clinical care is easy. Actually doing it, not so much.

The equation is a complex one which involves diagnostic expertise, and effective, safe and often ground-breaking treatment.

Our aim is for science and clinical practice to be successfully combined with compassionate and empathetic communication skills, giving the patient the best of both worlds.

\$7,503,732

Directed to Clinical Care, including:

\$ 1.9 million

PICU

\$1.5 million

Air Ambulance

11

Pieces of specialised medical equipment including an ultrasonic spirometer and paediatric wheelchairs.

10

Medical and allied staff including play specialists and an educational psychologist.

80

Upskilling, training courses and conferences for Starship staff including the World Bronchiectasis Conference, Post-Graduate diplomas in neonatal child health, European Epilepsy Congress, Paediatric Palliative Care Education Roadshow and World Congress on Rheumatic Heart Disease.

Expanding Starship's Pain Service

In healthcare, it's often the people connection that makes the biggest difference and Starship's Pain Service can attest to this. Two specialist staff have been employed which has enabled **more frequent and detailed pain reviews for children who are inpatients at Starship**, covering acute pain, cancer pain and any other complex pain presentations that are admitted to the hospital. Acute pain is usually related to tissue injury or related to medical procedures or treatment. Examples of this would be pain after surgery, pain after an accident, but pain that can also arise after a new medical presentation, such as cancer, or may also be related to the treatment of that condition.

Helping to introduce non-medication-ways of managing pain and addressing anxiety, is a core component of what Starship's Pain Service does. Their ambition is to educate and empower the next generation of clinicians that pain is managed at all tiers of healthcare where ultimately fewer patients need direct input.

Dr Kevin McCarthy, Paediatric Anaesthetist & Pain Specialist, is grateful for the generous support of the pain service at Starship.

“Me and the rest of the team see on a daily basis the wonderful impact that it makes on our service and to the care of children at Starship. Thank you.”

Establishing an Adolescent and Young Adult Survivorship Reintegration Programme

The end of treatment can be a particularly challenging time for many adolescent and young adults (AYAs) with cancer. The aim of the AYA Survivorship Reintegration Programme is to **help young people move forward and transition on to living life after cancer treatment**. It provides targeted individualised assistance that many of our young people will require in order to successfully navigate life after cancer treatment.

Developing a Comprehensive Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) service at Starship

IBDs are chronic inflammatory conditions of the gastrointestinal tract and comprise two main types – Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis. **New Zealand has one of the highest rates of childhood IBD in the world; approximately 35 new cases are diagnosed at Starship per year**. Uncontrolled IBD has many unpleasant symptoms, resulting in high hospital admissions, and the IBD cohort requires frequent planned endoscopy, surgery and medical appointments. Research suggests young people with IBD have a statistically significant higher rate of depression (20%) and anxiety (35%) than children with other chronic diseases such as cystic fibrosis, diabetes or cancer. Starship's IBD service encompasses clinical psychology support, which provides early intervention and preventative holistic care to reduce inequities associated with poor mental health.



PICU:

Construction during a working hospital

Starship Hospital is undergoing its largest redevelopment since it first opened in 1991, all made possible because of so many kind-hearted Kiwis. Three years ago we reached out to New Zealanders and asked for their help expanding the capacity of Starship's Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) which was consistently facing a shortage of beds.

The need to expand was urgent, as PICU wasn't coping with New Zealand's population growth, changes in care and treatment of critically sick and injured children, and a growing complexity of cases being treated.

Our generous donors rose to the challenge – together, **we raised a truly outstanding \$23 million to increase the capacity of Starship's PICU by 45%!** Stage 1 is now complete with an outcome of **10 extra bed spaces**, increasing beds in PICU to 32.



We are now well into Stage 2 of the project, the Atrium infill. Staff have been relocated to portacoms in what was the Koromiko Garden; the main hospital entrance has been moved, the level 2 atrium has been closed and there is restricted access to level 3. The whole area is encased in temporary walls and noise-reducing materials, so much so that families attending outpatients or those staying on the wards would be amazed to know what was going on behind the colourful, child-friendly hoardings.

None of this would be possible without so many generous supporters. Together we rise to challenges, creating a legacy that safeguards our children's future.

A special thank you to Graeme & Robyn Hart, Gretchen & Duncan Hawkesby, the Douglas family (the Douglas Charitable Trust), the Mowbray family and the ZURU team, Brendan & Jo Lindsay (Lindsay Foundation), Dulcie Taylor, Sue & John Morrow, Colin G Williams and the Dines Family Charitable Trust for their generous gifts.

A word from our construction crew

While full-scale construction projects are challenging at the best of times, spare a thought for the teams working on this project in the middle of a fully operational hospital.

“Dealing with a project that involves all the usual noise, dirt and disruption of construction, while doing everything possible to contain it, has been an exciting and thought-provoking task,” says Site Manager Duncan Cowell, of one of the most interesting challenges of his career.

“All the normal methods of building, which would generally be straightforward, need to be meticulously planned to ensure the safe delivery of the project for contractors and the public alike, with as minimal disruption as possible to the incredible staff and young patients at Starship Children’s Hospital. From having a 5-tonne crane perched above the main plant room for the installation of the superstructure, to the acoustic treatment of our site hoardings, and planning access routes for large steel members and other deliveries – these are all unusual constraints that have been very exciting obstacles to navigate through rigorous planning and precise execution.”



“The ongoing operations of the hospital, and the safety and care of the patients and staff, are of paramount priority to us and push us to think outside the box for solutions to inevitable construction-related problems.”

Site Manager Duncan Cowell



\$23m

Raised



10

Extra beds



45%

Increase in capacity



Starship's Air Ambulance

Starship's Air Ambulance is ready at a moment's notice for children like Gigi

Gigi was born with a congenital heart condition; her parents, Charlotte and Sam, were told she'd need three heart surgeries before she was three years old and this was something they had come to terms with. But when Gigi was three, just a month after her third surgery, an unexpected accident put her life on the line.

Gigi was out playing in the garden of her Tauranga family home when she fell and fractured her skull. The team at Tauranga Hospital knew she needed urgent specialist care, but that care was three hours away at Starship Hospital. The Starship National Air Ambulance was called and the PICU flight team flew down to pick her up and bring her to Starship.

"Gigi is basically alive because of the Starship Air Ambulance. Sam and I are just so thankful and forever grateful," says Charlotte. "She's now thriving, thanks to the rapid emergency care she received at Starship, and enjoying ballet lessons with her friends, playing with her cousins, family bike rides and playing with her dog."



Gigi recovering in Starship



Flight nurse Di Fuller aboard Starship's Air Ambulance

Keeping Starship flying

Starship's National Air Ambulance service is Aotearoa New Zealand's only flying paediatric intensive care unit. Ready to go at a moment's notice, it flies approximately once every two days to transport critically ill or injured children from around the country and bring them back to Starship and is a vital lifeline connecting children and families from across Aotearoa New Zealand with Starship.

The Air Ambulance is fitted with state-of-the-art technology and specialist equipment needed to keep children alive while the plane is in the air. It means they can receive lifesaving medical attention from the moment they're aboard. Those extra minutes of intensive care can literally mean the difference between life and death – especially when families like Gigi's live many hours' drive away from Starship.

"Starship has the nation's only specialist PICU," explains Dr John Beca, Director of Starship.

"Injuries and illnesses affect children right across the country and any child needing more than short-term intensive care is brought to Starship. Thanks to the Starship National Air Ambulance service, every child can receive the vital care and treatment they need, irrespective of where they live."

Thanks to generous support from donors, the Starship Foundation contributes \$1.5 million annually to help keep the Starship National Air Ambulance service flying 24/7, 365 days of the year. The Lindsay Foundation is a key supporter and has generously donated \$500,000 annually since 2019.

187

Flights from July 2023 – June 2024

50 hours

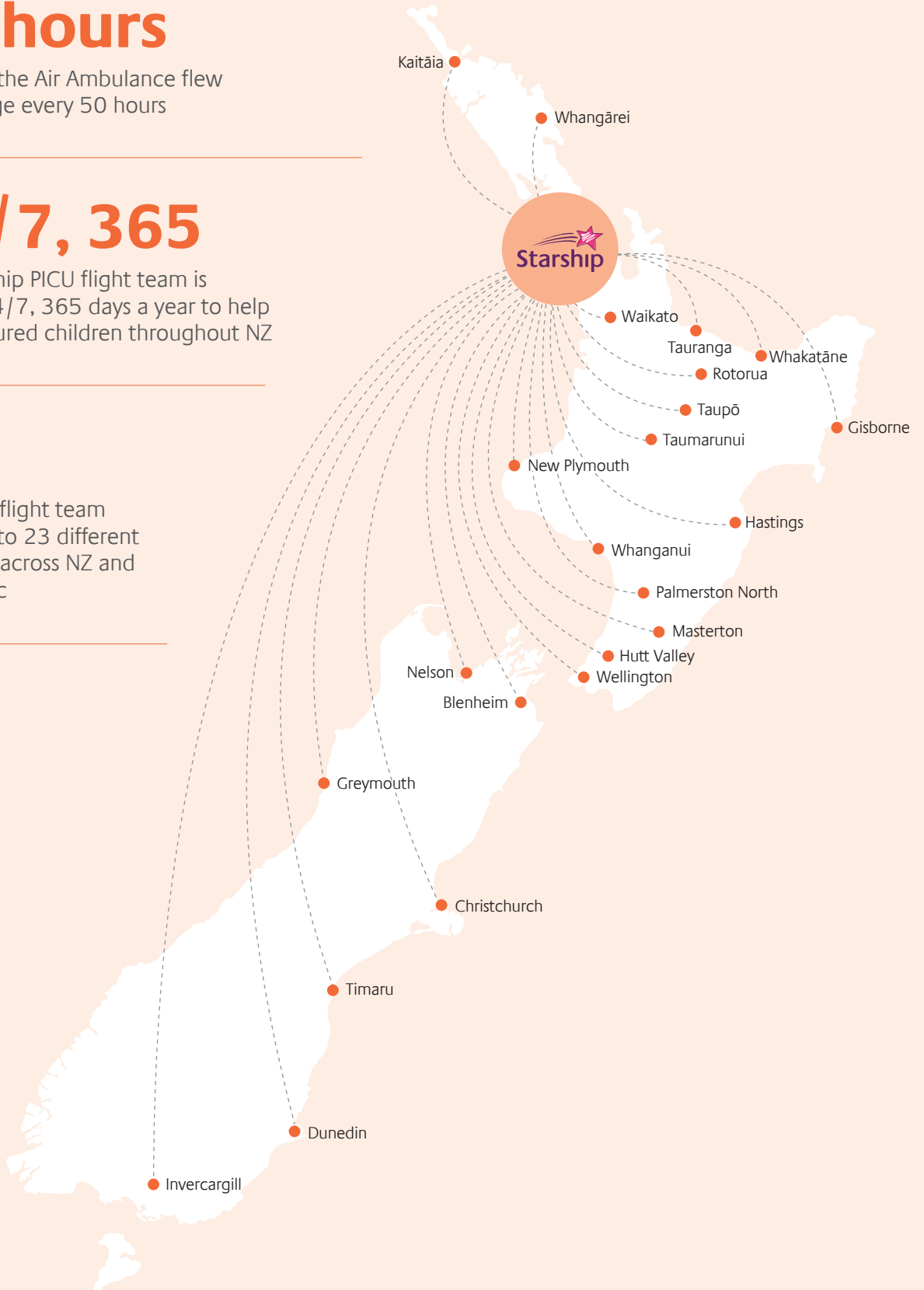
Last year the Air Ambulance flew on average every 50 hours

24/7, 365

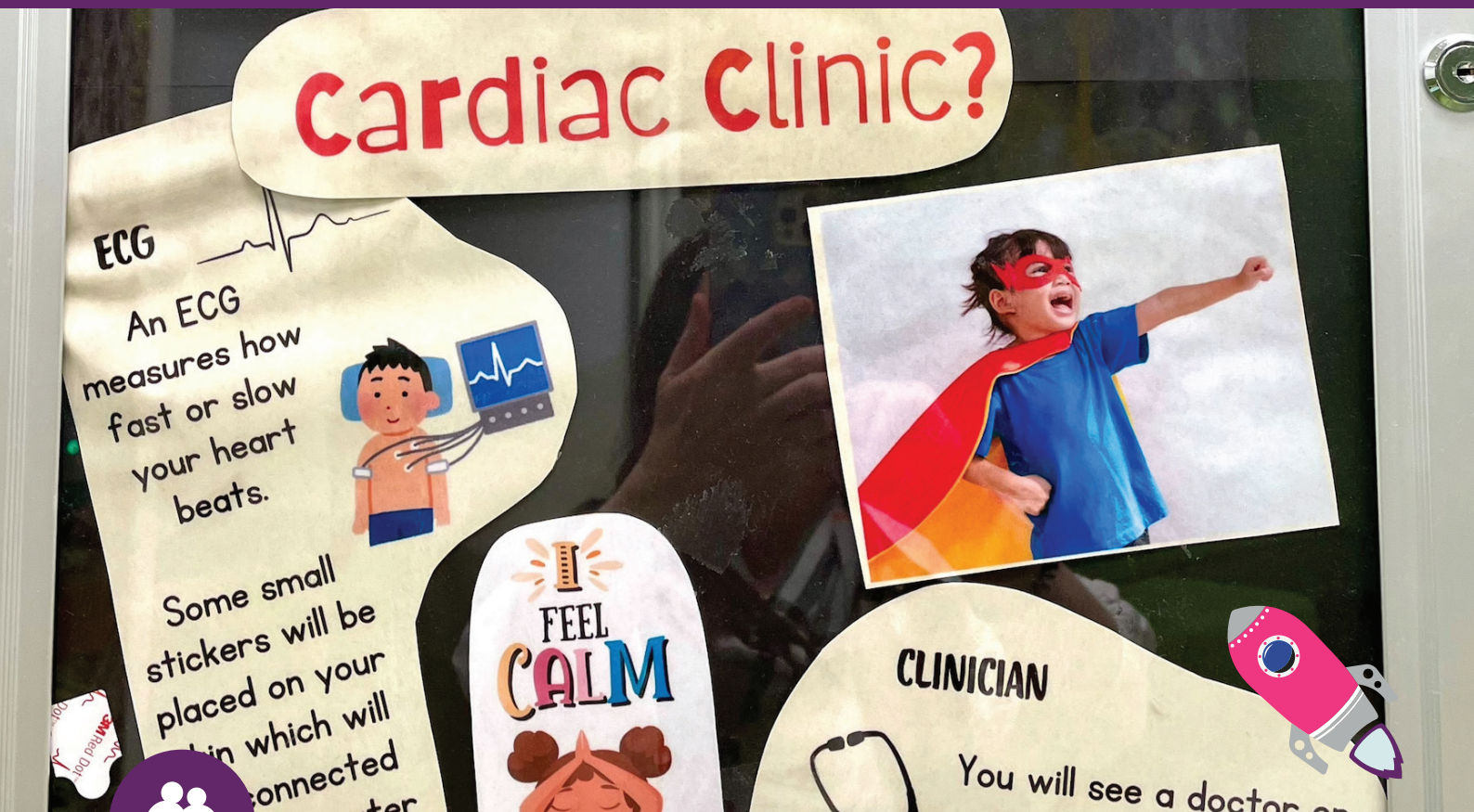
The Starship PICU flight team is on call 24/7, 365 days a year to help ill and injured children throughout NZ

23

The PICU flight team travelled to 23 different locations across NZ and the Pacific



Patient Experience



It is impossible to overstate the trauma experienced by a seriously ill child, and that child's family; it can be, and often is, life-changing.

While generous donors to the Starship Foundation are here to help Starship Child Health provide world-class clinical care, we are also here to help improve

the healthcare journey for children and their families – ensuring emotional and psychological needs, as well as preferences and values, are not just met but are surpassed.

\$656,947

Directed to Patient experience, including:

\$61k

Purchased books, one for every child who spends a night in hospital.

8

Refurbishments and makeovers including the CED waiting room, play therapy rooms and the Physiology Lab.

\$13.5k

Necessary extras to enhance the patient experience including recliner chairs, pyjamas, support packages and toys.

3,429,000

Users reached via Safekids digital engagement programme keeping children safe from unintentional childhood injuries.

Play Specialist Resources

Starship's Children's Emergency Department (CED) is experiencing a really challenging period with a sustained increase in numbers of children coming and staying for extended periods. There have been long waits to see a clinician – sometimes four hours, and 8–9 hours at night. Starship supporters have **enabled a full-time Hospital Play Specialist** (HPS) in CED, and a supply of toys available for children waiting.

Safekids

Safekids is an integrated digital engagement programme to keep children safe from unintentional childhood injuries. In Aotearoa New Zealand, unintentional injuries are a leading cause of hospitalisations and deaths among children. The team at **Safekids create targeted social media campaigns to educate parents and caregivers about safety**. With an estimated outreach to over 3,429,000 users, collaborative efforts with agencies, influencers, and evidence-based content, including behaviour-change messaging, the programme aims to reduce injuries and mitigate behaviours and hazards in the home by 20% among targeted users and participants.



Aston looking at the helicopters from his room in Starship



Starship's Clinical Pathways team



PATIENT EXPERIENCE

Clinical Pathways Programme:

Redesigning treatment to improve patient care

Clinical pathways are tools that hospitals and health providers use to organise and plan healthcare, from beginning to end, so that when a patient is diagnosed with a medical condition, the team knows how to get them treated and on the road to recovery as quickly as possible. For Starship's Clinical Pathways and Outcomes team, **the focus is to make sure children get equitable, world-class care and the best possible health outcomes no matter their ethnicity, location or circumstances.**

They're looking at a huge array of services, treatment and diagnostic pathways at Starship – from treatment for liver disease through to diagnosis for autism spectrum disorder.

“There’s so much complexity in the health system, so what we’re trying to do is create pathways through the system that really take a lot of that complexity out,” says Clinical Pathways and Outcomes Programme Manager Sarah Wilson.

Thanks to you, our generous supporters, the Clinical Pathways and Outcomes team has recently been able to re-design the otolaryngology (ORL) pathways. This is the medical specialty which focuses on disorders of the ear, nose and throat.

“The way we go about that is by streamlining the referral and diagnostic process, getting the patient from start to finish more quickly,” says Dr Craig McCaffer, a Paediatric ORL Surgeon involved in the re-design project. “The aim of the re-designed pathway is to get the same approach for every child.”

This means children can receive treatment for common ear, nose and throat conditions faster, which, in turn, reduces negative impacts on sleep, quality of life and learning; meanwhile their families have a less stressful and smoother experience.



Dr Craig McCaffer and Dr Edward Toll

Jimmy’s* story

Jimmy was four when his mum noticed he wasn’t waking ‘full of beans’ like he normally would. And when he’d get sick, he’d get really sick. The cause was diagnosed as enlarged adenoids and infected tonsils.

“When I learned more, I realised the impact it could have on concentration, irritability and fatigue and that this was actually quite serious,” says Jimmy’s mum. “The long-term effects could really harm him.”

For many families, tonsil and adenoid removal can be a stressful experience. Often, they’re faced with long waits, extended time off work and school and a process that can be confusing and difficult to navigate. For Jimmy and his mum however, their experience at Starship was the opposite.

Simple factors like being able to choose hospital appointment times that fell on weekend days and scheduling Jimmy’s surgery during the school holidays was a big help when navigating everyone’s busy schedule and meant less time away from work and school for the family.

“What helped to achieve the positive outcomes for my son was the accessibility and flexibility. Everything was more whānau-centred,” Jimmy’s mum says, adding that Jimmy is now the best version of himself again. **“He’s sleeping well, thriving at school and waking up ‘full of beans’ every day!”**

* Patient’s name has been changed for this story to protect his privacy.



Research



Dr Colin Barber

Doing great research takes time, expertise and support to work systematically and collaboratively.

Funding research opportunities at Starship helps attract and retain the best staff and keeps Starship up-to-date with providing world-class healthcare for

children. The more we understand about diseases, the better our preventative measures and treatments will be. Which can only lead to better outcomes for our patients.

\$1,842,815

Directed to Research,
including:

4

Fellowships

- Paediatric Bacterial Meningitis
 - Caregiver Responsibility
 - Neurodevelopmental Disorders
 - Food Allergies
-

5

New research projects

- Reducing stress in NICU parents: a randomised trial
 - Investigating childhood bone and joint infections
 - Hyperinflammation syndrome in children with IFNAR1 deficiency
 - Implementation and impact of routine debriefing strategies in the Operating Theatre
 - Investigating loss of immune tolerance in Anti-NMDA Receptor Encephalitis
-

Reducing stress in NICU parents: a randomised trial

Parents with babies in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) have high risks of developing anxiety,

depression and acute stress disorders. The NICU experience may also disrupt parent-infant bonding and lead to long-term negative effects on infants and children, including childhood social and emotional problems. Internationally, a range of psychosocial interventions have been found to be effective to reduce distress levels of NICU parents. Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) aims to reduce stress in NICU parents. **ACT has been shown to be effective in reducing distress in parents of children with a range of chronic illnesses, particularly when paired with education.** If effective, this intervention could be implemented as part of routine care in the NICU so that all parents and caregivers could receive effective psychosocial support.

Investigating childhood bone and joint infections

Staphylococcus aureus-induced bone and joint infection (BJI) in children represents a spectrum of disease from isolated septic arthritis and osteomyelitis to systemic, multifocal infection which can be life-threatening. **New Zealand experiences the second highest rate of this disease worldwide.** Beyond the hospital setting, the after effects can negatively impact quality of life and impair function into adulthood.

One of the most frustrating aspects of invasive Staphylococcus aureus BJI for clinicians is the unexplained higher burden of disease in certain geographic regions and amongst specific ethnic groups. **In the New Zealand setting, Māori and Pacific children are three times more likely to experience infection than their peers.** No single cause for variation in disease incidence has been identified, though socioeconomic deprivation, host vulnerability and pathogen virulence all likely contribute to overall risk.

This project has been designed to answer the following question: Why are some children more likely to develop serious bone and joint infection? Researchers are investigating this issue using a case-control study design, comparing cases of childhood BJI to the wider community, looking for differences in access to health, socioeconomic deprivation and a history of serious infection in first degree relatives. **The goal is to inform public health interventions to address this unacceptable rate of illness.**

Hyperinflammation syndrome in children with IFNAR1 deficiency

Although extremely rare globally, we have found IFNAR1 deficiency to occur more commonly in the Pacific region. Effective communication is crucial for our immune system to function normally. When a virus invades our body, our immune cells must be able to receive warning signals communicated from other cells so that they can respond promptly and efficiently to protect our body. When communication is disrupted, a person can develop life-threatening or fatal viral infections.

A genetic form of such communication disruption, affecting a crucial receptor of warning signals, is called IFNAR1 deficiency. To date, doctors and nurses in New Zealand and Australia have diagnosed and looked after a small number of children affected

by this rare condition. **Despite the best medical care, 60% of these children affected by viral infection, together with excessive inflammation or hyperinflammation, have died.**

A measured and precise approach to controlling hyperinflammation is crucial for patient survival. However, because doctors still don't know what is driving the hyperinflammation, they can't target the drivers using precision treatment. **Starship clinicians are determined to find out what drives this hyperinflammation and how it can affect the health and immune function of children with IFNAR1 deficiency.** Advances in our understanding would not only help doctors at Starship Hospital but also those around the world better care for children with IFNAR1 deficiency and other related immune conditions, thereby improving these children's chance of survival.



RESEARCH

Whiti Ora:

Starship's Research, Education and Innovation Centre

It has been a year since the unveiling of the beautiful Whiti Ora building, Starship's research, education and innovation centre. Years in the making, the vision of Whiti Ora has now come to full fruition and become a hive of activity, fostering collaboration and connection across Starship. It is also the workplace of the Starship Foundation team who manage and facilitate the running and maintenance of the centre, and a place to welcome and engage with our donors. This is all possible because of an act of generosity beyond our wildest dreams, and we are incredibly grateful to the Trevor Ellett Estate who left Starship an extraordinary bequest, dedicated to research.

The Starship Research hub

Based inside Whiti Ora, the team involved in the Starship research hub helps contribute to Starship's



Whiti Ora

reputation as a centre of excellence, providing critical research infrastructure to clinicians conducting trials.

Clinicians at the top of their game want to be part of the most significant research nationally and internationally and a flourishing research culture can't be achieved without the key enabling functions to support the work.

The Starship Research team works to remove as many barriers as possible to enable research, providing support wherever needed, whether this is one aspect or coordinating the whole project. This team and its vital work wouldn't be possible without the support of our generous donors.



Starship's research team

“We know that being a research active hospital has so many benefits,” says Research Operations Manager, Laura MacKay.

“Overall, hospitals that take part in research are shown to achieve better patient outcomes through more systematic and evidence-based care.

For the individual child or young person research can offer access to promising new or unfunded treatments, or an improved level of monitoring.

It is a hopeful and meaningful space to work in where children, their families, and their healthcare providers share a common goal, either to do better today or to gain the knowledge to do better in the future. The support of the Starship Foundation for our team allows research to happen in so many more areas, including rare conditions, which would otherwise lack the necessary resources required to get underway.”

Connection and collaboration

This year over 170 gatherings were held by hospital staff at Whiti Ora.

Through the first half of 2024, Starship Nurse Educators facilitated several study and wellbeing

days for nurses on the surgical wards, who gathered for a mix of wellness and professional development; learning, reflections, yoga and shared meals. Nurse educator Victoria Cuthers also facilitated several nurse graduate welcome days, inspiring budding young nurses to chart a course into the paediatric space.

Starship's complex pain service has also run their Kickstart Programme at Whiti Ora. Young people under Starship's pain service gathered at Whiti Ora for education and physical therapy sessions. With the wrap-around support of the complex pain team, these kids were able to explore strategies to ease their pain journey and connect with other young people facing similar challenges.

Leadership teams across the Starship community – Starship Blood and Cancer, TamaAriki Ora, Te Puaruruhau, Paediatric Palliative Care, Hospital Play Specialists, CED and NICU – have held their critical planning days at Whiti Ora.



RESEARCH

Starship Foundation Research Fellow:

First in-depth look into
local paediatric food
allergies in Aotearoa
New Zealand

The number of people diagnosed with food allergies has been increasing worldwide over the past two decades. International research has identified some drivers, however there is limited research around the prevalence of food allergies in Aotearoa New Zealand, until now.

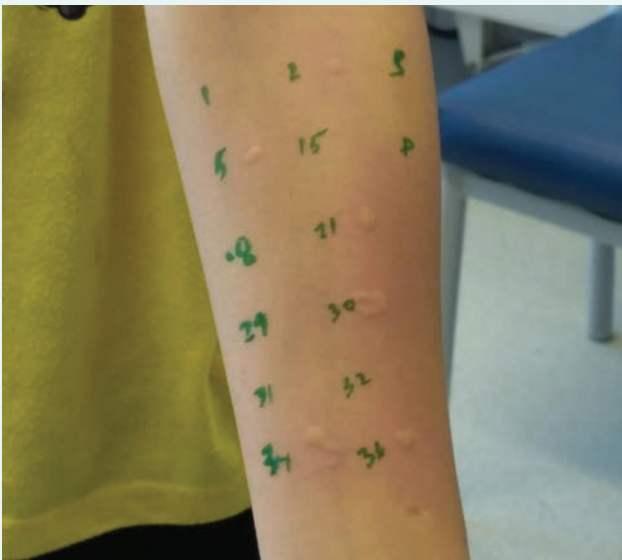
Research Fellow Cecilia Verryt has received funding to investigate the epidemiology of childhood food allergy in Aotearoa New Zealand and research why food allergy prevalence varies between ethnic groups. “I’m so grateful for the opportunity I’ve been given by the Starship Foundation donors,” Cecilia says. “Local research is hugely important to improve care for Kiwi children and their whānau. Thank you for your generosity in supporting local research, helping Kiwi kids and also fostering paediatric trainees to develop research and clinical skills which we’ll utilise to care for New Zealand children throughout our careers.”

“We need to understand who is at risk of developing a food allergy in New Zealand, what care children access for food allergy diagnosis and treatment, and ultimately develop and assess interventions to help reduce the risk of food allergy for our tamariki,” Research Fellow Cecilia Verryt.



The research will provide the first in-depth look into local paediatric food allergy epidemiology, using data from the Growing Up in New Zealand (GUINZ) cohort study. Cecilia will investigate food allergy in children at the age of eight years old, by both parental country of birth and ethnicity (which have been shown to be important in international research), to see if she can identify any determinants from the first 1,000 days that might influence the chance of having a food allergy at age eight.

It is estimated between 2.5% and 9.3% of children in developed nations have a food allergy. The GUINZ data showed that at eight years of age, 8.5% of participants had parent-reported food allergy, putting Aotearoa New Zealand at the higher end of the international estimate. Between 2004 and 2015 hospital presentations for anaphylaxis had a nearly threefold increase to 16.2 per 100,000 children, nationwide. The prevalence rate for Asian and Pacific children was 29.7 and 27.8 respectively per 100,000 almost twice as high as the national average.



Food allergies have a significant impact on the quality of life for children and their families. There can be additional negative effects such as chronic eczema and a higher hospitalisation rate as a result of anaphylaxis, the most severe form of allergic reaction. A greater understanding of food allergies could vastly improve the health outcomes for many New Zealand children.

A medical fellowship is an advanced training programme that follows the completion of residency, providing doctors with the opportunity to specialise in a particular area of medicine. In Australia and New Zealand, fellowships represent an important step for medical professionals aiming to become consultant doctors.



Tributes

Sir Colin Giltrap: With Starship from the beginning

It was with a heavy heart we learned about Sir Colin Giltrap's passing on 17 April 2024. Sir Colin, his wonderful wife Lady Jenni, their family, and the Giltrap Group have been very generous supporters of Starship over the years. His connection with us started through Lady Jenni's friendship and participation with our beloved patron, Dame Rosie Horton, who sadly passed away in 2023.

Sir Colin, 84, will be remembered as a forward-thinking philanthropist, who had a penchant for supporting innovative projects and new technology at Starship. He was a respected businessman, knighted for his contributions to motorsport and charity and inducted into the New Zealand Business Hall of Fame.

Sir Colin passed on the torch to his sons Richard and Michael, who are also loyal supporters of Starship and



now manage the bi-annual Starship Supercar Show. Thousands of car enthusiasts flock to the Giltrap showroom to admire 80 performance cars worth \$70 million; ticket sales for the last event raised over \$200,000 for Starship. His legacy lives on with them.

Sir Colin's philanthropy has helped Starship expand its services, invest in cutting-edge medical equipment and recruit top-tier paediatric specialists. Sir Colin was constantly analysing the impact his support would bring and has truly made a difference in the lives of many children. We are grateful to him for his generosity and kindness, and he is deeply missed by all of us at Starship.

Dulcie Taylor: A champion for children's health

Dulcie Taylor, beloved in the Tauranga community and a steadfast supporter of children's health, passed away peacefully on April 11, 2024, at the age of 93. Known for her compassionate spirit and unwavering dedication to making a difference, Dulcie's legacy is intertwined with the Starship Foundation.

Her generous philanthropy has significantly contributed to the advancement of paediatric healthcare in Aotearoa New Zealand. Her support has enabled crucial initiatives such as the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit, supporting the Pain team and important clinical research. Her foresight has helped future-proof the national children's hospital, ensuring it remains at the forefront of medical innovation.



A huge thank you to Julie and Suzanne, Dulcie's daughters, who helped with Dulcie's philanthropic activities for the Starship Foundation. Dulcie Taylor leaves behind a lasting legacy of compassion and a profound belief in the power of human kindness. She will be missed by the Starship Foundation and all who had the pleasure of crossing paths with her.



Thank you to our fantastic supporters

Starship is known for changing and saving the lives of children with the most serious illnesses and the most critical injuries.

Though the running costs are covered by Health NZ | Te Whatu Ora, it's only with the help of its dedicated charity and our generous supporters that the hospital can continue to research innovative treatments and access the best equipment and facilities for children and their families. We believe every child deserves to thrive. Everyone has a part to play, and together everything is possible.



The Dines Family Charitable Trust:

Shining Stars for Starship Hospital

The Dines Family Charitable Trust aims to improve health outcomes and increase wellbeing in the community. As parents and grandparents themselves, the Trustees are particularly passionate about supporting sick and injured children and their families.

“Starship is our only national children’s hospital and we want to support the Starship team by helping to give them the best possible resources, so that they can be there for our children,” says Trustee Melissa Dines.

The Dines Family Charitable Trust has been a beacon of hope and support for Starship Hospital for the past four years. They’ve given generously towards the PICU redevelopment and helped strengthen the Pain team.

“It’s so important to us to invest in the health of our kids.” Melissa Dines, Dines Family Trustee.



Buzzy bee device used by Starship’s Play Specialists



Lulu in Starship’s Emergency Department

Play therapy is another of the Starship services that has benefited from the Dine’s generosity. Play therapists have a wealth of knowledge in hospital-based medical play and distraction techniques for non-pharmacological pain management options. This is particularly helpful for children under three who have difficulty articulating their pain.

“I brought my 22-month-old daughter Lulu to Starship Children’s Emergency Department (CED) with a head injury after a nasty fall,” says mum Tasha Impey. “She was hysterical, frightened and in lots of pain; the amazing play specialists performed their expert distraction techniques and Lulu was immediately transfixed, calm and still. This meant she was able to avoid sedation while getting her head injury treated.”

“Of all the people we met that day, the play specialist is the one who remains in my mind for her incredible expertise and care.” Starship mum, Tasha Impey.

Play specialists are essential in CED as play-based techniques support tamariki undergoing emergency procedures when they are in pain. They also help to provide comfort and reassurance to the wider family during stressful situations, making a tough time a little more bearable. The Dines’ commitment to funding essential hospital services is a testament to their belief in the power of giving back. Through their generosity they have helped to make a difference in the lives of New Zealand children from all walks of life.

Thank you to the Douglas Charitable Trust:

Supporting clinicians all around Aotearoa New Zealand

Inside Starship Hospital there are many areas where the impact of the Douglas Charitable Trust's generosity can be felt.



Simulation manikin baby

Simulated training programme

Every year hundreds of doctors, nurses and allied health professionals benefit from the simulated training exercises carried out by the Douglas Starship Simulation Programme (DSSP). The DSSP provides specialised training to staff and families using high-fidelity manikins to create a realistic facsimile of real-world medical scenarios. Through this process staff and families are trained on a wide range of

skills, from sharpening their Basic Life Saving Skills to simulating life-threatening scenarios like a massive haemorrhage protocol.

The DSSP is not just confined to Auckland, providing their expertise to clinicians all around Aotearoa New Zealand. As one Nelson paediatrician put it, “Emergencies are few and far between, but when they happen you want the team to be prepared and ready.” Simulation training is a vital tool in their continued learning and development and is a safe way to practise, make mistakes and reflect on choices made in a crisis, thereby building confidence.

“I have had a lot of feedback from our staff on how simulation sessions have given them confidence to manage the real emergencies and resuscitations they have encountered at their workplace.” Wellington-based neonatologist.

Inflammatory Bowel Disease service

On top of supporting the DSSP, in 2023 the Douglas Charitable Trust funded three years of a dedicated IBD service. Covering complex conditions such as Crohn's disease and Ulcerative Colitis, which commonly impact growth, nutrition and pubertal development of children and adolescents, Starship diagnoses approximately 35 patients per year and treats up to 300, as well as supporting patients around the North Island.

Chronic IBD can have enormous impacts on a young child's life. In 2021, an astonishing 77% of patients with IBD had to visit the Children's Emergency Department at least once. Patients often require frequent school absences and have higher rates of depression and anxiety. With support from the Douglas Charitable Trust, Starship has employed a dedicated IBD nurse specialist and a mental health nurse specialist to help children overcome the mental and emotional challenges that come with living with a chronic condition.

“One highlight has been supporting a couple of young people back into school, one of whom had been out of school for one year as a consequence of the impact of IBD and anxiety around this; he's now back full time.” Stephanie, IBD Mental Health Nurse Specialist.

Thank you to the Athlae Lyon Starship Research Trust



Children's health was a real passion for Athlae Lyon. She was involved with Starship from the beginning, as inaugural Vice Chair of the Friends of Starship, and then for 18 years as a Trustee of the Starship Foundation. When Athlae died suddenly of an infection in 2010 in Italy, her family wanted to establish a form of memorial for her, combining her love of children and long connection with Starship.

John Beca, Starship's clinical director and longtime friend of the family, mentioned there was an absence of specific funding at the time for clinical research. And so the Athlae Lyon Starship Research Trust (ALSRT) was formed. Now, 14 years on, Athlae's husband Cliff, and their children, Cameron and Shona, have been instrumental in helping a research culture flourish at Starship, facilitating the vital work carried out by Starship's clinicians over the years. Cliff and Athlae's children continue to play an active role in the Trust, pushing forward the increase in clinical research opportunities at Starship.

"My goals and aspirations are that all Kiwi children and families know that if and when they need help, it will be there, irrespective of where they live in New Zealand. They are not alone to cope with the difficulties they may face."

Shona Lyon.

Last year, the ALSRT enabled Dr Hannah Jones to study anti-NMDAR encephalitis, an incredibly dangerous disease that causes brain inflammation, resulting in nearly 50% of children needing to be admitted to the ICU. Because of this research grant, Dr Jones can dig deeper into the disease and seek better outcomes for affected tamariki.

"Being part of continuing the trust's legacy allows me to honour the vision and values that my parents believe in, and prioritise the health

and wellbeing of New Zealand's children."

Cameron Allen

Alongside their annual funding for clinical research, the Trust has generously supported the expansion of PICU which will include the Athlae Lyon Medical Day Stay Unit, in honour of one of Starship's most passionate supporters. "It's very pleasing to us, her family and friends, that the Medical Day Stay Unit is to be named after Athlae," says Cliff Lyon. "It honours her commitment to children's health and her gentle, caring nature and we hope the additional funding we were able to provide for the Medical Day Stay Unit enables children to have their procedures with less apprehension and in more appropriate and specifically planned surroundings."

Through the multi-generational support of the Trust, Starship clinicians are empowered to investigate the issues they see affecting New Zealand children every day. "I feel humbled and pleased to know that Cliff and my mother's commitment to the health and wellbeing of children during her lifetime is now immortalised within the hospital in a meaningful way," says Cameron Allen.



PICU construction

Leaving a Gift in her Will:

“I’m happy to help where I can”

Jeannette is 82 and proud of it. She plays in the ukulele band at her retirement village in Mosgiel, enjoys reading, knitting, embroidery and feels happy knowing she’s helping make a difference to child healthcare in Aotearoa New Zealand. She’s a devoted mum to three children and grandma to six, but says, “They can take care of themselves now, they have jobs!”

Working as a radiographer at the Otago Medical School ignited a passion in Jeannette for medical innovation that hasn’t gone away. “When I worked for the X-ray department, I was so interested, I loved that crazy environment,” she says. “My brother was a radiographer as well and I was always interested in this; I love research, innovation, trying new things and it captured my mind entirely.”

Jeannette was deeply affected by the harrowing death of a relative’s young child in a car accident, motivating her to start supporting Starship. “I had a little part of the feeling of the anxiety of what it would be like losing a little one. We all felt real pain at her loss, it was a tragedy close to our hearts.”



Baby Talo recovering after surgery



A remarkable gesture

For the last 12 years, Jeannette has supported Starship every month and has made the remarkable gesture of leaving a gift in her Will. “My children don’t need my money and I can do with it what I wish. I love reading about the doctors and nurses, getting new training and new machinery. I just love getting the booklets and stories about the different children,” she says. **“If I can play a small part in ensuring the work at Starship goes on – getting new buildings and extra equipment, more training – it makes me happy.** I think Starship is exceptional. There are so many people doing good things, Starship is the star for me. Some people don’t have excess cash, but for some reason I have. I don’t go out spending money on clothes and shoes, I don’t go into Dunedin often, I’ve done all that. I’m happy to help where I can. I want to spend my money on different things.”

Leaving a gift in your Will

We are so grateful to everyone who has made the remarkable gesture to leave a gift in their Will to Starship. Even a small percentage of your estate, after you’ve provided for your loved ones, can have a lasting impact on the countless young lives we touch every day. A willingness to consider such a meaningful contribution is truly inspiring and helps Starship to plan for a brighter tomorrow.

At Starship we strive to ensure that all New Zealand children get the best care possible and this type of gift will help us continue to push the boundaries of paediatric healthcare, providing cutting-edge treatments, innovative research and compassionate care to every child who comes through our doors.



Southland farmers grateful to Starship for grandson's care

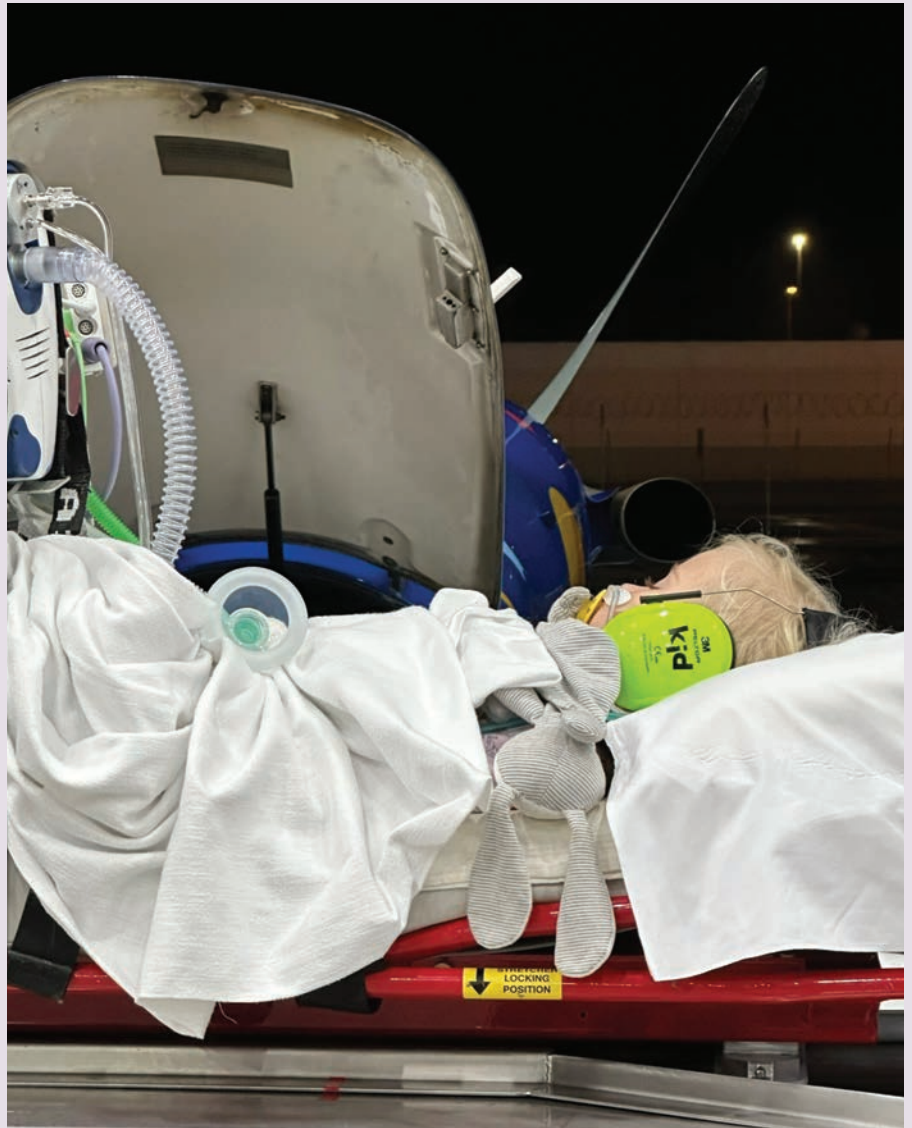
Lyn and her husband had been Southland farmers for 46 years before moving off the farm after her husband was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. Lyn has been a generous supporter of Starship since seeing first-hand the care her grandson received seven years ago. At two years old, he had croup-like symptoms and was helicoptered to Dunedin Hospital from his home in Alexandra; his condition quickly escalated and he was in need of specialist care that only Starship could provide.

Our National Air Ambulance flew down to pick him up and bring him to Starship where he stayed for many weeks. Lyn, 66, did what many Kiwi grandparents do and went to support her family in their time of need,

looking after her other three grandchildren, while the parents were up in Starship with their little boy, fighting for his life after he'd suffered a stroke.

"I'm so grateful to Starship that I've got this gorgeous little boy, every time I see him, it's just a miracle." Lyn said.

On a few occasions, supported by other members of the close-knit family, Lyn was able to come to Starship and spend time with her daughter and grandson. "It was amazing seeing him on the bed at Starship, every time we thought we would be losing him, and then my daughter would talk to him and he would come back to us," she says "I just couldn't believe the service at Starship, how informative the doctors and nurses were, how quick at reacting they were to his needs."



It was a long road as Lyn's grandson relearnt how to walk and talk. Now, they can't keep the energetic nine-year-old off the South Island rugby fields, happily running alongside his friends and teammates, proudly watched from the sidelines by his loving family. "It's unreal, I regularly pinch myself that we still have him, as it was certainly very scary," Lyn says.

"That's why I donate, I'm more than happy to support Starship. We're lucky we've got them for these sudden incidents; I've felt blessed to be able to be up there and seeing how good it is, seeing how well the sick children are cared for."



Introducing Starship's Big Bake Off

For many people, baking is their therapy. And this year, baking was very healing for many of our Starship families and supporters. It was also a lot of delicious fun.

In 2024 we launched Starship's Big Bake Off, and throughout June, nearly 2,000 supporters fervently whisked away from kitchens all across Aotearoa to raise funds for Starship. The level of skill, commitment and enthusiasm was extraordinary. There were favourite cookies, cosy scones, classic slices, and the really ambitious entrants with themed cakes – think rockets, Peter Rabbit, even a Chanel handbag!



The many photos made our mouths water, while the accompanying stories behind the baking made our hearts melt. Like Sophie's. She participated in the Starship Big Bake Off with her son Finn, who was diagnosed with coronal craniosynostosis, and at just nine months old underwent a skull remodelling surgery at Starship. The family has been back-and-forth to Starship for many follow-up check-ups and appointments since then, and although he will need more surgeries in the future, he's now a thriving six-year-old thanks to all those involved in his care.

When Sophie heard about Starship's Big Bake Off, she didn't hesitate in getting involved. "During our visits, our focus is always on our beautiful boy, and we often leave without fully expressing our immense gratitude to the surgeons, caring nurses, and support workers who made his treatment possible," says Sophie. "Then we came across Starship's Big Bake Off and it gave us a wonderful opportunity to show our appreciation in the best way we know how. Baking together brings us so much joy, and we were thrilled to sign up. Being part of a small rural community



Sophie and son Finn baking for Starship

in Reporoa, we initially thought fundraising might be challenging. However, we were quite taken aback by the overwhelming support from local businesses.”

June 23rd was the Big Bake Day, and bakers all over the country whipped up their most spectacular creations. It didn't matter if you were a novice, a wannabe or a superstar baker, the most important thing was just to have fun and bake as much as you could because every bake helped the sickest children in New Zealand have a better future.

To all the Big Bake Off participants and their communities, we are appreciative of your passionate support and participation in the Starship Big Bake Off. Your commitment to baking and fundraising was truly excellent and together you raised \$315,335 for Starship. We can't wait for even more of you to join us next year!

As we reflect on the year gone by, we extend our immense gratitude to all the extraordinary community fundraisers, like Sophie and Finn. Your contributions shine brightly as a testament to the strength that emerges when a community comes together. Whether riding the length of the country, walking or running a marathon, swimming for hours, auctioning items

\$315,335

Raised by Starship's bakers

1,940

Participants

of value, or shaving your hair off, the funds raised helped children receive world-class treatment and care at Starship. Thank you.





Duskie

Thank you to our Five Star Partners

Barfoot & Thompson help amputees reach new heights

Duskie was born with a portion of her tibia missing (lower leg bone), and needed an amputation as an 11-month old baby. While her primary limb has been able to meet her everyday requirements and help her to get around, when Duskie started school she found it difficult to keep up with her friends on the playground. Now at six years old, she has a new blade, complete with a spring, which enables her to run, jump, climb and play in ways she wasn't able to before.

For many children and young people living with a limb amputation, having an additional prosthetic limb which is designed for sports and other activities (called a secondary activity limb) has a profoundly positive effect on their emotional and physical health and development. While children and young people who have undergone amputation as the result of an accident have the cost of their secondary activity limb covered by ACC, there is a funding gap for those who have lost a limb due to medical reasons, such as a congenital condition, infection or other illness.



Our amazing Five Star Partner, Barfoot & Thompson, generously helped to fund three years' worth of secondary activity limbs for young amputees who are referred to the Peke Waihanga Artificial Limb Service from Starship, setting them up for a brighter future.

“Without Barfoot & Thompson and the Starship Foundation, we wouldn't be able to afford a blade like this for Duskie. It really is a game-changer for her and she's so happy keeping up with all her friends on the playground now.” Dannielle, Duskie's mum.

Not only is Duskie no longer coming home from school feeling frustrated, she's full of renewed confidence and is looking forward to taking up gymnastics when she is in year two at primary school.

“Every time we go to the hospital, I always come away thinking what more can we do? Not everyone is so lucky and you've got to make sure everyone has an equal chance and that's why we get behind it.” Peter Thompson, Barfoot & Thompson Managing Director

Barfoot & Thompson has been a Five Star Partner of the Starship Foundation since 2003. In that time, they have donated more than \$6 million to Starship, enabling us to make numerous improvements, initiatives and programmes possible for Starship staff, children and families and helping to ensure better health and brighter futures for our children.



Mercury gives a lab a much-needed makeover

8-year-old Charlie came to Starship’s Respiratory and Sleep Lab following its recent makeover and “Wow, look at all the colourful crawly creatures, and the tūī, my favourite bird!” was his instant reaction. This lab is visited by children like Charlie who have some of the most complex and severe chronic respiratory and sleep disorders, including:

- Children on long-term ventilation who are admitted as outpatients to have their ventilator serviced and settings adjusted.
- Overnight outpatient appointments for oximetry and sleep studies, plus sessions to teach patients and families how to use the equipment.
- Analysis and reporting on overnight sleep studies in the lab.
- Lung function testing carried out using a range of equipment including a Body Box, to see how much air a child’s lungs hold.

This refurbishment was funded by our amazing Five Star Partner Mercury and their wonderful customers, who we thank for making this important space more welcoming, comforting and child-friendly. It means the Starship respiratory team now have a fit-for-purpose clinical space, which also offers a bright, comfortable environment for patients and whānau. It follows on from the unveiling of the upgraded Starship Outpatients in 2018 following a sizeable \$3.8m investment by Mercury.



Charlie at Starship’s Respiratory and Sleep Lab



All smiles thanks to the new makeover from Mercury

A word from Mercury

Together with their generous customers, our Five Star Partner Mercury has raised over \$15 million for our national children’s hospital since 2001.

“Mercury has partnered with Starship for over 20 years and we are proud to be a Five Star Partner. This collaboration goes beyond sponsorship; it’s about bringing smiles to young patients, instilling hope in their families, and supporting the dedicated medical teams. Together with our customers, we are committed to creating a brighter, healthier future for Kiwi kids and their families. Our customers have played a crucial role in this journey, and together we have raised over \$15 million to fund critical projects across the hospital. We remain dedicated to this cause and look forward to continuing our support.” Craig Neustroski, GM of Commercial Operations, Mercury.

Our Corporate Family

Thank you for your support this year

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The Giltrap Group logo, featuring the text "Giltrap" in white on a black background.

The Group logo, featuring the text "Group" in white on a black background.



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And thank you to all the key supporters who we were unable to reach or chose not to be named.

Connect and Contact Us

Keep up with Starship throughout the year

Every day, extraordinary stories unfold inside Starship. Whether it's a newborn baby getting a lifesaving heart operation, a young amputee doing cartwheels with their first prosthetic activity limb or Santa delivering a sack of pressies to patients undergoing treatment on Christmas Day.

Extraordinary stories also unfold on a daily basis outside Starship. Whether you shaved all your luscious

locks off, ran your first marathon, baked up a storm or – one of our personal favourites – gave up having presents for your birthday in favour of Starship donations. We love to share all of the wonderful moments inside and outside of Starship across our social media.

Contact

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Starship charity registration number:

CC24272

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