



Ronald McDonald  
House Charities®  
South & Central Australia

# Annual Impact Report

1 January -  
31 December 2024



Ronald McDonald  
House Charities®  
South & Central Australia

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[#keepingfamiliesclose](#)

# Our purpose Programs



## Our Mission

We provide essential services that remove barriers, strengthen families, and promote healing when children need healthcare.

## Our Vision

A world where every family has what they need to ensure the best health outcomes for their children.

## Our Programs

-  Ronald McDonald House Adelaide
-  Ronald McDonald Learning program
-  Hospitality Cart

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We would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which Ronald McDonald House Charities South and Central Australia are located. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present. We recognise their long and continuing connection to Country and celebrate their rich cultural identity.

# A message from our Chair & Chief Executive Officer

As we reflect on 2024, we are humbled by the strength of the families we serve and the unwavering support of our community. It has been a year marked by resilience, impact, and growth—anchored by our mission to keep families close during some of the most challenging times in their lives.

This year, Ronald McDonald House Charities South and Central Australia supported more families than ever before. From our cornerstone program—Ronald McDonald House Adelaide—to our Hospitality Cart and Learning Program, we continue to evolve and expand our services in response to the growing and changing needs of families with sick or injured children.

In 2024, we provided over 6,800 nights of accommodation to families from rural and regional communities across South and Central Australia. Our House remained a vital home away from home, offering warmth, comfort, and support close to major hospitals.

Our Hospitality Cart continued to bring comfort and care directly to families within hospital wards—offering snacks, toiletries, activities, and moments of kindness. In 2024, the cart served 2,400 families and caregivers, providing simple but meaningful support right where it's needed most. Meanwhile, our Learning Program provided 2,500 hours of tailored educational support to children who had fallen behind due to illness, helping bridge the gap and restore confidence.

None of this would be possible without our passionate network of donors, volunteers, corporate partners, and staff. This year, we saw extraordinary community generosity—from large-scale corporate fundraising campaigns to heartfelt grassroots initiatives. Our volunteers contributed over 7,700 hours, bringing not only their time but also their compassion and energy to every family they served.

We also welcomed new partnerships that will allow us to deepen our impact and ensure sustainability for the years ahead. Strategic collaborations with hospitals, schools, and Aboriginal health networks have strengthened our ability to provide culturally responsive and regionally accessible services.

While 2024 brought growth and hope, we know the need continues to rise. Families face increasing pressures—emotional, financial, and logistical—when their child is ill. Our priority for the year ahead is to further expand our reach and capacity.

To our volunteers, donors, partners, and staff—thank you. Your belief in our mission fuels everything we do. To the families who pass through our doors—you inspire us daily with your courage and love. Together, we are building more than rooms or programs. We are building a community of care, hope, and unwavering support.



**Rebecca Wessels**

Chair, Ronald McDonald House Charities South & Central Australia



**Melissa Monkhouse**

Chief Executive Officer, Ronald McDonald House Charities South & Central Australia

# Our People

## Our Board

Rebecca Wessels | *Chair*  
Rick McCleave | *Vice Chair*  
Stewart Watts | *Treasurer*  
Jami Hodge | *Secretary*  
Claire Connolly-Hay | *Board Member*  
Lindsey Gough | *Board Member*  
Tristan Harding | *Board Member*  
Emma Burgess | *Board Member*  
Dr Shannon Schedlich | *Board Member*  
Lincoln Size | *Board Member*  
Shona Reid | *Board Member*

## Our Patron

Liz Scarce AM



# Treasurer's Report



I am pleased to present the Treasurer's Report for the year ended 31 December 2024. This year, RMHC South and Central Australia continued to deliver meaningful impact for families across our region, while making considered decisions to invest in opportunities and personnel that support our long-term growth.

Although we recorded a minor operating loss in 2024, this was primarily due to adjustments linked to changes in the market value of our long-term investments—not from a shortfall in day-to-day operations or fundraising as reflected in the operational cash flows.

Importantly, our core programs remained fully funded, and we continued to invest in the future of our services. From our cornerstone House program in Adelaide, to the Hospitality Cart and Learning Program, we expanded our reach and laid the groundwork for broader regional impact.

Total revenue derived was just over \$2 million in the 2024 year and it is pleasing to report net assets at the end of 2024 exceeded \$10.5m. The strong balance sheet position places the organisation in a position to continue delivering upon our mission by expanding our programs and assisting many more families.

Our financial position remains sound, with healthy reserves and strong community support. We are confident that these investments will yield long-term benefits for the organisation and, most importantly, for the families we serve.

Thank you to our donors, corporate partners, volunteers, and supporters for continuing to believe in our mission. Together, we are building the foundation for even greater impact in the years ahead.

**Stewart Watts**  
Treasurer

# Our Impact

## Thanks to your incredible support

Ronald McDonald House Charities South & Central Australia has been able to deliver the following support to families with seriously ill and injured children in 2024.



**Ronald McDonald House  
Adelaide**



**187**

Family visits



**6,892**

Nights of provided support



**7,700**

Volunteer  
hours donated



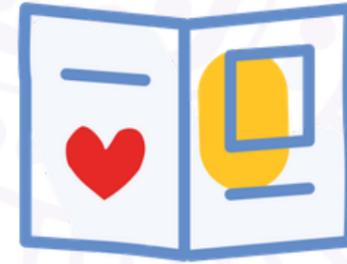
**708 nights**

Longest family stay



**3984**

Meals served with our Meals  
from the Heart program



**Ronald McDonald  
House Adelaide  
Learning Program**

**43**

Students learned face-to-face

**66**

Students received education

**37**

Registered tutors



# Our Families

## Anica-Lulo's Story

In 2024, we were honoured to support Anica-Lulo and her family during an extraordinary 310-night stay at Ronald McDonald House Adelaide. While Anica-Lulo underwent intensive treatment for leukemia, she was surrounded by the love and strength of her parents, Travis and Cilati, her three siblings and a new baby brother born in June during their time at the House.

Anica-Lulo's diagnosis came as a complete shock, and the family is still processing the reality of it all. The hardest part, Travis shared, was hearing the words "you need to come to Adelaide" and having to leave everything behind. Just one day after the diagnosis, Travis and Anica-Lulo were on a flight from Alice Springs to Adelaide, separated from the rest of the family and facing the unknown.

The separation was incredibly tough on them both. But not long after, the entire family was able to reunite under one roof at Ronald McDonald House Adelaide. This togetherness, they say, meant everything. Being able to go through the journey as a family helped ease the emotional weight and gave them the strength to focus on what mattered most—Anica-Lulo's health.



Anica-Lulo showed remarkable strength throughout her entire treatment and her family believes that having her siblings close played a powerful role in her recovery. The connection between them was a constant source of comfort, resilience, and joy.

*Being at the House as a family was the best possible way they could support one another. It became their "home away from home" for their "little big family."*

The care, support, and facilities provided by Ronald McDonald House Adelaide lifted a huge weight from their shoulders. Travis and Cilati shared that not having to search for accommodation or worry about day-to-day logistics was invaluable. It allowed them to pour their energy into what truly mattered: caring for Anica-Lulo.

Throughout their time at the House, Travis, Cilati and their family became a much-loved part of the Ronald McDonald House Adelaide community, forming strong connections with other families, staff and volunteers.

Thanks to the support of our donors, we are able to offer families like Anica-Lulo's a safe, welcoming place to stay during life's most difficult moments. Your generosity helps keep families close when it matters most.



# Fundraising & Engagement

**Gala Ball** The 2024 Gala Ball was held in July 2024 - a magical and memorable evening, bringing together over 550 guests at the Adelaide Convention Centre in support of Ronald McDonald House Charities South & Central Australia. The atmosphere in the room was filled with generosity, warmth and a shared commitment to helping families with seriously ill or injured children. Guests enjoyed a three-course dinner, premium beverages, live entertainment, and exciting live and silent auctions. Thanks to the incredible support of those in attendance, the vital funds raised on the night will help us continue providing a "home away from home" and essential support services to families in need. A heartfelt thank you to our event partners and sponsors whose contributions helped make this event possible.

**Golf Day** Our annual Golf Day was held at the prestigious Royal Adelaide Golf Club and brought together 48 dedicated members of our community for a sunny day on the greens. Following an enjoyable round of golf, guests gathered for a superb dinner in the Club House. All proceeds from the day went directly toward supporting families with seriously ill or injured children. Thank you to everyone who took part and contributed to making the day such a success.

**Christmas Appeal** Our 2024 Christmas Appeal brought our community together in the true spirit of giving, raising vital funds to help keep families close during the festive season. With the support of generous donors and corporate partners, we were able to continue providing a warm, safe, and supportive "home away from home" for families caring for a seriously ill or injured child over Christmas. From heartfelt donations to thoughtful gifts, this appeal ensured families could focus on what matters most—being together.



2024 RMHCSA Gala Ball

RMHCSA Golf Day



Christmas Day

# Volunteering

At Ronald McDonald House Charities South & Central Australia we recognise that our dedicated volunteers are the lifeblood of our organisation. Without the help of our volunteers, we simply would not be able to provide the high quality support we deliver to our families each and every day of the year. We wish to express our sincere gratitude for the following volunteers and volunteer committees for helping us to continue our mission in supporting the ever-changing needs of seriously ill children and their families.

## Our Volunteers

### 2024 Ronald McDonald House Charities South Australia Volunteers

Abbie Soloman  
Agamjot Singh  
(Agam) Amar  
Amy Farndale  
Anne Porter  
Bob Wharton  
Charlotte Exelby  
Charlotte  
Walters  
Chris Shenton  
Christine Exelby  
Colleen Billows  
Debbie Dennis  
Deborah Stacy  
Declan Ee  
Dianne Stevens  
Don Bui  
Gemma Ralph  
Hayley Mannix  
Helen Simpson  
Helen Tomlinson  
Indya Dodd

Innay Smyth  
Isabel Seagrim  
Janine Haynes  
Jarrad Exelby  
Jay Gilden  
Jessica Buick  
Jessica Gordon  
Jill Rowe  
Joanne Miller  
Julie Costa  
Karen Aspery  
Kayla Hoile  
Kerrie McDonald  
Lesley Rawlings  
Loretta Exelby  
Luke Dutschke  
Maria Pointon  
Mary Harman  
Max Sangster  
Melissa Garrels  
Monica Hetherington

Nayia La Scala  
Peter Wigg  
Rachel Hoskings  
Rachel Madigan  
Robin Longbottom  
Robyn Coles  
Robyn Langman  
Robyn Simpson  
Sanduni (Sandi)  
Jayawardena  
Santiago Hernandez  
Shane Munchenberg  
Shania Bishop  
Susanna Pearce  
Tracey Simpson  
Travis Quinn  
Trish Hattingh  
Victoria Tzamtzidis



# Our partners, sponsors & supporters

## National Partners



## Chapter Partners



# Our partners, sponsors & supporters

## National Agency, Program & In-Kind Supporters

- AbbVie
- AGL Australia
- Ambius Plants
- APG
- Corrs Chambers Westgarth
- DELL
- DFK
- DDB Group Australia
- DoneSafe
- DVM Law
- Ernst & Young
- Findex Community Fund
- Guihen Jones
- Initial Hygiene
- IPAR
- Mango
- Microsoft
- OMD
- Phocas
- Signature Media
- Sparke Helmore Lawyers
- The Hard Word
- VMLY&R Australia
- Webvine
- Williamson-Barwick

## Local Corporate, Community, Event and In-Kind Supporters

- Adelaide Gutter Cleaning
- Adelaide Myer Centre
- Adelaide Zoo
- AGIG
- Alice Springs Pony Club
- Bakery on O'Connell
- Bella Build & Design
- Bevan Plumbing
- BHP
- Brush-up Painting & Maintenance Services
- City of Norwood
- Coates Group
- Coopers
- Copyworld
- CW Wines
- Detpak/Detmold Packaging Group
- Drakes Supermarket
- Dulux
- Floral Image
- Farmer's Leap Pty Ltd
- Gintonak Pty Ltd
- HOYTS
- I Do Maintenance
- JC Commercial
- Kiwanis Club of Athelstone
- Legal Funding Australia
- Mark Lobert Studio
- Madden Jewellery
- McDonald's South Australia Owner/Operators
- Meals on Wheels
- Melbourne Street Hair
- MGA Whittles Community Foundation
- Miller Apartments
- Morgan Stanley
- Morphettville Racecourse
- Mykra Building Services
- Network Ten Adelaide
- Nexia Edwards Marshall Financial Solutions
- Nightglo Transport
- Nine Network
- NL Security
- North Adelaide Fresh Fruiterers
- Nova Entertainment
- OMD
- oOh! Media
- Parmalat Australia Ltd (Lactalis)
- Port Lincoln Racing Club
- Rentokil Initial Pty Ltd
- SA Dental
- SA Power Networks Employee Foundation
- Send a Gourmet Basket
- Seven West Media Limited
- SkyCity
- South Australian Cricket Association
- Table Top Springwater
- Threefold Distilling
- Treasure Life Ride
- Trojan Fire Protection
- Tschärke Wines
- ToyBox Australia
- Wicks Estate
- Your Say Group