



royal far west
caring for country kids

Annual Report

2016/17

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RoyalFarWest

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Parents, Health Professionals, School Principals & Teachers

If you believe a child in your care or in your community needs our help, please go to the 'How we Help' section on our website or call us to speak with our Client Services team about how we can help.

External Audit
Conducted by Stewart Brown & Co.

ABN: 37 821 970 819

This Annual Report covers the period
1 July 2016 until 30 June 2017.

Front cover
Oksana Shufrych © Shutterstock.com



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Help Country Children Thrive

Royal Far West (RFW) is a private charity that provides essential developmental health and other services to children living in rural and remote areas across Australia to help them to grow and thrive.

This year we raised nearly \$11 million in funds towards achieving our mission of improving the health and wellbeing of country children. We are pleased to have been able to support some 5,500 children, families and educators, through our multi-disciplinary services provided in Manly via Telecare into schools and homes, and through community-based programs. Over the year more than 38,000 occasions of services were delivered by our specialist team, many of which were for children and families with complex needs.

Our goal is to be able to reach 15,000 children and families. Our ability to do so is directly linked to the donations and support we receive from individuals, other charities and foundations, corporate supporters and our government partners. We seek your continued support to enable us to provide the help that more and more country children and families need.

Ways you can help country children:

- Donate Funds directly (every donation over \$2 is tax deductible)
- Become a RFW Regular Giver
- Commit a Bequest or Gift in Memory
- Celebrate an event such as your birthday, and invite your guests to donate to RFW in lieu of gifts
- Volunteer your time, technology, services or skills
- Support our Events and bring your friends
- Become a Corporate or Community Partner and help us grow our support networks
- Become an Academic Partner and strengthen our evidence base
- Book our Accommodation and enjoy a break in beautiful Manly

To discuss other ideas to support RFW and our country children, please call our Fundraising and Events Team. Ph: 02 8966 8500.

Healthy Country Kids

It's our mission to improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people who live in rural and remote communities, with our core values being reflected in everything we do.

Respect

We value diversity and are sensitive in relationships and to differences.

Care

We foster an environment that is supportive and without judgement.

Energy

We apply ourselves energetically, are resilient & encourage innovation.

Integrity

We are open, honest and accountable. We do what we say we will do.

100,000 Children Need Our Help

At Royal Far West, we believe that all children have the fundamental human right to a high standard of health and wellbeing. Geography should not be a barrier to services or a cause for disadvantage. Sadly, the gap between city and country children is widening. Children living in rural and remote areas of Australia are up to five times as likely as those living in urban areas to have challenges with their developmental health. There are 27% of Australian children living in outer regional, remote and very remote areas who are developmentally vulnerable at the time they start school.¹ One in three of these children cannot access the health and developmental services they need because of where they live.

This means that more than 100,000² country children need help. And the number of children experiencing developmental, behavioural and mental health issues that impact on their ability to learn, grow and be happy is increasing.

So why does this matter?

Vulnerable children are at much greater risk of becoming vulnerable adults, especially if they don't receive the right support. Childhood vulnerability can lead to poorer educational attainment, higher rates of chronic disease and mental health, and a greater probability of unemployment, homelessness and crime later in life. In addition to the personal impact, this creates significant and potentially preventable costs to communities in education, unemployment, health, social welfare and criminal justice, and a weighty burden on our society as a whole.

Imagine our nation without a vibrant and resilient rural Australia? At RFW we believe that tackling childhood vulnerability is an important health and social issue as well as an important economic issue. Childhood developmental vulnerability that remains unaddressed has an enormous impact on our nation's human capital, growth and prosperity. We believe that reducing childhood vulnerability is a regional development imperative.

Providing this support and tackling developmental vulnerability in rural and remote communities is an investment in our future as a nation – in our children, our rural and agricultural communities, our civil society and our regions.

Our Call to Action

Please help us to turn this situation around, to reduce the number of children who are at risk of not being able to reach their full potential because of geographical, social, financial or other disadvantage. Your gift of time, money or support will always be appreciated and go to a great cause – thriving country children!

The Statistics



of Australian children living in outer regional, remote and very remote areas are developmentally vulnerable at the time they start school³

42%

of Indigenous children are developmentally vulnerable in one or more domains at the time they start school⁴



16% of children and adolescents aged 4-17 in rural areas have mental health concerns⁵

32%

of rural and remote communities have little or no access to support for childhood development, or choice in how they access services⁶

'Developmentally Vulnerable' Definition

The Australian Early Development Census (AEDC)⁷ measures five areas (domains) of early childhood development that form the foundations for later good health, education and social outcomes. These domains are: Physical health and wellbeing; Social competence; Emotional maturity; Language and cognitive skills (school-based); and Communication skills and general knowledge. The measure is applied at a point in time when children start school.

A child is classified on the AEDC as being 'developmentally vulnerable' if they score in the lowest 10 per cent of the national population in one of the five domains. If they score in the lowest 10 per cent in two domains, this is referenced as being developmentally vulnerable in two or more AEDC domains.

Who We Are & What We Do

RFW is one of Australia's oldest and most respected charities. Established in 1924 as a summer holiday camp for country children, RFW has consistently adapted to meet the needs of rural and remote communities. Today we are dedicated to helping country children and families manage, and in some cases resolve, developmental, behavioural and mental health issues so they can thrive.

RFW demonstrates almost one hundred years of commitment to improving the health, wellbeing and learning outcomes of country children. We provide a unique child development service that is highly specialised, child and family centred and reflects a deep understanding of country communities.

We work in partnership with schools, healthcare providers including Aboriginal Medical Services, local government and community groups to fund and deliver multidisciplinary services, build capacity and advocate. We do this to achieve sustainable outcomes for children most at risk.

Our commitment is to provide services where none are available and to build local capacity. Our long standing relationship with NSW Health has enabled us to go boldly into hard-to-reach parts of NSW to deliver health services to children

and families with complex needs, where no local services exist. The NSW Health/RFW partnership is a powerful example of how the government and a reputable non-profit organisation can work together to extend limited resources and do more for people living in hard-to-reach, rural and remote communities.

Through our team of 65 paediatric, multi-disciplinary clinical specialists, our teaching friends in the RFW School, our Hospitality, Recreation and Support staff and the innovative use of technology, we support isolated and vulnerable country children aged 0-12 with developmental and health issues. We have particular expertise in working with children and families with complex needs.

This year we were privileged to individually support 2,805 children, many of whom attended for more than one intensive visit to Manly, and we delivered 38,489 occasions of service. Our aim is to reach many more children and families in need, and to work to support those local services that already exist in our rural and remote communities. Our ability to extend our service is directly linked to the will and capacity of our friends in the government, corporate and philanthropic sectors to do more.

Our Vision
Healthy Country Children

Our Mission
To improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people who live in rural and remote communities, with our core values being reflected in everything we do.



Message from

**His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd)
Governor of New South Wales**

Children are our nation's most important resource yet it is apparent that some families in rural and remote areas struggle to receive the healthcare they need for their children, which impacts on their education, their social skills and their futures.

In this, my third year as Patron of Royal Far West, I continue to admire the strength and commitment of this 94-year-old charity to improving the health and wellbeing of country children and their families.

In August 2016, my wife Linda and I visited Royal Far West's facility at Manly, where we had the privilege of meeting some delightful children and their families, Board members and dedicated staff. Being able to view the onsite services offered to country children also provided a wonderful entrée to the reception we held at Government House later in the year.

At this reception, Linda and I were pleased to host the launch of Royal Far West's 'Caring for Country Kids Appeal'. All funds raised from this Appeal will go towards the construction of Royal Far West's Centre for Child Health and Learning.

The important and inspired work of Royal Far West continues. Your passionate involvement with Royal Far West, from fundraising to volunteering, donating to service delivery, continues to make a difference to the lives of many thousands of families.

On behalf of the people of New South Wales, I thank you for looking out for the health and wellbeing of children and young people who live in rural and remote communities, now and into the future.

**General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd)
Governor of New South Wales**

Government House, Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000
telephone: 02 9228 4111 | website: www.governor.nsw.gov.au

From Our Chairman

In 2016/17 the gifts that Royal Far West received from our many friends and supporters totalled nearly \$11 million, enabling us to invest significantly into our children's services and new programs. We are appreciative of the wonderful, continued support and generosity of our corporate and government partners, Scheme Members, Branch Members and our community friends and donors. We appreciate every gesture and every gift that is offered to us, and thank every new person who comes into the RFW family to support our mission.

The RFW mandate is as true today as it was nearly 94 years ago, when Reverend Stanley Drummond brought children from the far west of NSW to Manly for a holiday by the sea and my grandfather, Dr George Moncrieff Barron, the surgeon in Manly, entered into a pact with Rev. Drummond, stating, "You look after their souls, Padre, and I will look after their bodies". The organisation grew from there, founded on the need to support the health and wellbeing of country children.

Just on six years ago RFW came to a crossroads, having departed from its aged care business and needing to re-establish itself as a significant provider of care for country children. Lindsay Cane was appointed CEO and was charged with identifying the greatest need of country children that RFW could support. After careful evaluation, Lindsay and her team focused on developing a growth strategy that was primarily focused on the widening gap of developmental vulnerability in country children. New initiatives such as Telecare for Kids, Windmill and the Healthy Kids Bus Stop child-health screening program were built on a platform of research, evidence, evaluation and advocacy. This is a significant milestone for RFW, making remarkable progress over the last six years and I congratulate Lindsay and her team for their material achievements during this period.

This last year saw the commencement of construction of the Centre for Child Health and Learning building that will enable integration of the RFW Medical Centre and RFW School and provide a contemporary environment for our staff and families. We acknowledge the important contribution of the NSW State and Federal Governments in providing \$20 million of the \$35 million needed for the new

building. Most importantly, we thank the NSW and Federal Governments for lending their unequivocal support to the development of the new Centre as an asset for children across not only NSW, but the nation as a whole. The remainder of the funds will be derived from philanthropic capital donations and the release of land assets if required.

This year was also one in which we sought to strengthen and refresh our Governance and Board membership, processes and policies. As part of that quality improvement drive, the Board committed to an external performance review and improvement program.

In late May we were saddened to hear of the passing of Ray Griffiths OAM. Ray was a Royal Far West Board Member for 35 years, including 32 years as our Treasurer, before retiring in 2008. His astute financial planning created a stable financial base on which generated the significant corpus we have today. His contribution was extraordinary and significant.

A special part of my role as Chairman is to be able to thank the many people and organisations that help RFW to deliver on its mission of improving the health and wellbeing of country children. On behalf of the Board I

wish to thank every loyal volunteer, corporate partner, donor, Branch and Scheme Member, government member and member of staff for their passionate and generous support for country children. The need to gift specialist healthcare and learning support to children and families living in country Australia is as urgent today as it was when our doors opened in the 1920s.

Lindsay and her Executive team have once again performed strongly, juggling many priorities and creating new opportunities. Lindsay's leadership and the skill of her team has inspired the Board, staff, our partners and clients.

I thank my fellow Directors for their commitment and wise advice throughout the year.

With support from so many people, I look forward to a wonderful year ahead.

**Richard Barron
Chairman**





Lindsay Cane (left) with
June Oscar AO

From Our CEO

A year of transformation - 2016/17

As the CEO of this unique and inspiring charity it gives me great pleasure to report on our 2016/17 year, one in which we have begun to enjoy the fruits of our bold investment and planning over the previous three years.

We achieved some great wins. The extension of our Telecare for Kids service into new and remote communities in Queensland as well as other parts of NSW has been an inspiration to everyone. Our challenge to ourselves, to take our face-to-face expertise and use technology to help us deliver “virtual” health services via Telecare, has been a game-changer. Many new relationships have been developed with isolated rural and remote primary schools and preschools that are seeking support for students who present with conduct, behavioural and learning issues. Rural teachers and Principals report feeling well supported; families report dramatic improvements in their children’s speech and mental health because they can access sustained services for the first time; and our clinicians are inspired to create new therapeutic programs to support more children and families.

The most visible change this year was the levelling of the Elsie Hill building - in readiness for our Centre for Child Health and Learning. We were immensely proud to receive the support of both the NSW State and Federal Governments. Generous private donor support, including a large gift from our good friend, the Sargents Pies Charitable Foundation, has been vital, allowing construction to commence.

One great success during the year was our Windmill Program. Royal Far West was rewarded for our “no-distance-too-far” attitude in using technology to deliver services to isolated communities and children with disabilities. We were recognised as joint winner of the National Disability Services 2017 NSW Disability Innovation Award in the category of ‘Innovation in Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People’. This award has firmly established us as an innovative disability provider, giving us a higher profile and exposure to clients in need. It sits alongside our new status as a registered National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) provider.

Revenue generated for 2016/17 was \$10.9 million, a slight increase on last year. This came from a number of sources including an increased contribution from charitable trusts, foundations and bequests. A pleasing area of growth was in our accommodation and hospitality service. The year ended with a planned operating deficit of \$1.126 million which was a result of a deliberate strategic investment in our people and our systems. We also accelerated our depreciation write-down on the Medical Centre ahead of the planned transition into our new Centre for Child Health and Learning late in 2018. The assets of RFW – land, financial and human – are judiciously managed by the management team and carefully given oversight by our very engaged Board of Directors. The opportunity to work with a range of assets to support the business is not something all charities have to hand, and RFW is extremely diligent in nurturing and utilising these assets to enable us to serve more children.

Our investment in extra staff has enabled us to increase our Telecare service, which resulted in an 87% increase in the number of schools we supported via Telecare, from 40 schools last year

to 75 schools this year. Our fundraising revenue increased by 25.6% to \$2.6 million, and our signature event, Ride For Country Kids, raised an incredible \$638,000 of this amount. We thank our good friends FDC Construction & Fitout as our major supporter, along with many other corporate friends, for helping to make the Ride a fantastic event year on year.

We also strengthened the capacity of our Business Development Team, bringing in expertise to help us refresh the RFW brand and raise our public profile and fundraising abilities. The refreshed brand will convey our unique and leading role in paediatric health and wellbeing for country children.

To give country children a stronger voice at the planning table in future, we have strengthened our Evidence and Advocacy Platform. We are seeking to make a greater contribution both nationally and locally to policy development. In response to concerns about the growing vulnerability of country children, we commissioned a system-wide review of the state of children’s developmental and mental health in rural and remote Australia from the Murdoch Children’s Research Institute’s Centre for Community Child Health. This resource will be widely shared with our friends in government, the corporate sector and other not-for-profits so we can work together to tackle developmental vulnerability in rural and remote communities.

I would like to acknowledge all the wonderful people and organisations that support our work to improve health outcomes and life trajectories for country children.

This year we enjoyed the company of our Patron, His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret’d), Governor of NSW and Mrs Hurley at RFW for various events



and presentations, and we remain deeply appreciative of the genuine care, engagement and perpetual support that we receive from The Governor and Mrs Hurley. “You are my Sunshine” rings through the halls of RFW whenever Mrs Hurley gives us the pleasure of her company.

NSW Health continued its commitment to partner with us to support vulnerable children across rural and remote NSW. This year NSW Health contributed \$3.7 million to our service costs, which is just over one third of our annual budget. RFW sought to match this contribution so that together, NSW Health and RFW could deliver health and support services for children with complex needs deeper into outer regions of NSW. I thank the members of the Board who inspire, encourage and support me. I thank our wonderful corporate and community friends, our Branch and Op Shop members and each and every RFW volunteer for their contribution to help us deliver on our mission of supporting and strengthening country children. I thank my talented Executive colleagues for their incredible contributions this year, and our staff team for their passion to give of themselves to support country children to reach their full potential.

Lindsay Cane
Chief Executive Officer

Achieving our Vision

To achieve our vision of healthy country children, last year we launched our five-year strategic plan to 2020. This plan is the cornerstone on which we will build our capacity and services to deliver on our "2020 and beyond" goal of supporting 15,000 children and families.

The plan reflects two headline shifts for RFW: moving to a national remit, and broadening our focus to service delivery, capacity building and advocacy.

Our strategic priorities and pillars support our vision, inform our decision making and enable us to deliver on our goals.

Our Strategic Priorities are:

- 1 Strive for Service Excellence**
– by putting quality and outcomes at the heart of what we do
 - 2 Extend our Reach**
– supporting more children and families across rural and remote Australia
 - 3 Empower Communities**
– partnering with communities to support child health and wellbeing
 - 4 Champion Country Kids**
– building a better evidence base on rural child health and wellbeing, and using it to influence policy change
 - 5 Strengthen our Business**
– being an innovative, improving organisation with a sustainable funding model
- ▶ Visit our website to view our Strategic Plan at royalfarwest.org.au**



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Strategy 2016–2020 Summary

Our Service Model



Strategic Pillars

Country Kids

Our services and programs are focused on children up to 12 years of age with developmental and behavioural issues who live in rural and remote areas of Australia

Access and Equity

We seek to improve access to health services, and reduce inequalities in this access, through service delivery, capacity building and advocacy

Partnership

We work in partnership with governments, schools and local services to make best use of limited resources to support children and families

Families and Communities

We understand the importance of family and community for a child's wellbeing. We work with them to meet their needs and build capacity

Values

We value our people, our donors, our volunteers and supporters. We strive to make every dollar count, and to make a real difference to children's lives

Performance Measurement

Comprehensive tactical plans were finalised this year to enable us to measure our performance against our five strategic priorities. To capture the impact of our services we are measuring our outputs, using information from a number of qualitative and quantitative sources including our program performance metrics, data and insights collated by our research team, our RFW Consumer Advisory Committee, academic partners, key industry bodies, health partners and government. We will use these findings to continually refine and improve our services.

Our Programs

RFW provides a range of programs to support country children, families and communities. These programs are delivered at our dedicated centre in Manly, by Telecare and in communities through targeted outreach.

Our programs are child and family focused, and work fluidly across health, education and social care to achieve the best possible outcomes.

At RFW, children and families often receive support from multiple programs. In the last year we have invested heavily in our systems and data and for the first time can report on the number of unique clients participating in our core programs.

This year we delivered services to 2,805 unique clients, a 10% increase on the previous year. We delivered a total of 38,489 Occasions of Service (an average of 14 OOS per client, of which 26% was via Telecare and 5% was in community). These numbers do not include parents/carers and siblings who participate in our parent workshops, education sessions, RFW School and our therapeutic recreation program.

Our Clients

We are pleased to have been able to support some **5,500 children, families and educators,** through our multi-disciplinary services provided in Manly and via Telecare into schools and homes, and through community-based programs.

Year	Total number of clients	Percentage of clients by Delivery Channel		
		@Manly	@ Telecare	@Community
2016-17	2,805	47%	24%	29%
2015-16	2,557	47%	17%	36%

We help children and families with developmental issues including:


- Anxiety and major depressive conditions
- Attention deficit and hyperactivity disorders
- Autism
- Behavioural and conduct disorders
- Early life trauma
- Speech and language delays
- Intellectual Disability and Global Developmental Delay

Please go to royalfarwest.org.au for more information about our Programs.

Where our Clients Live

Most of RFW's clients come from NSW, with the majority living in the Western NSW and Murrumbidgee regions, followed by Hunter New England and Southern NSW. Around 20% of our Telecare clients are in Queensland, and we have a small but growing number of clients from Western Australia.

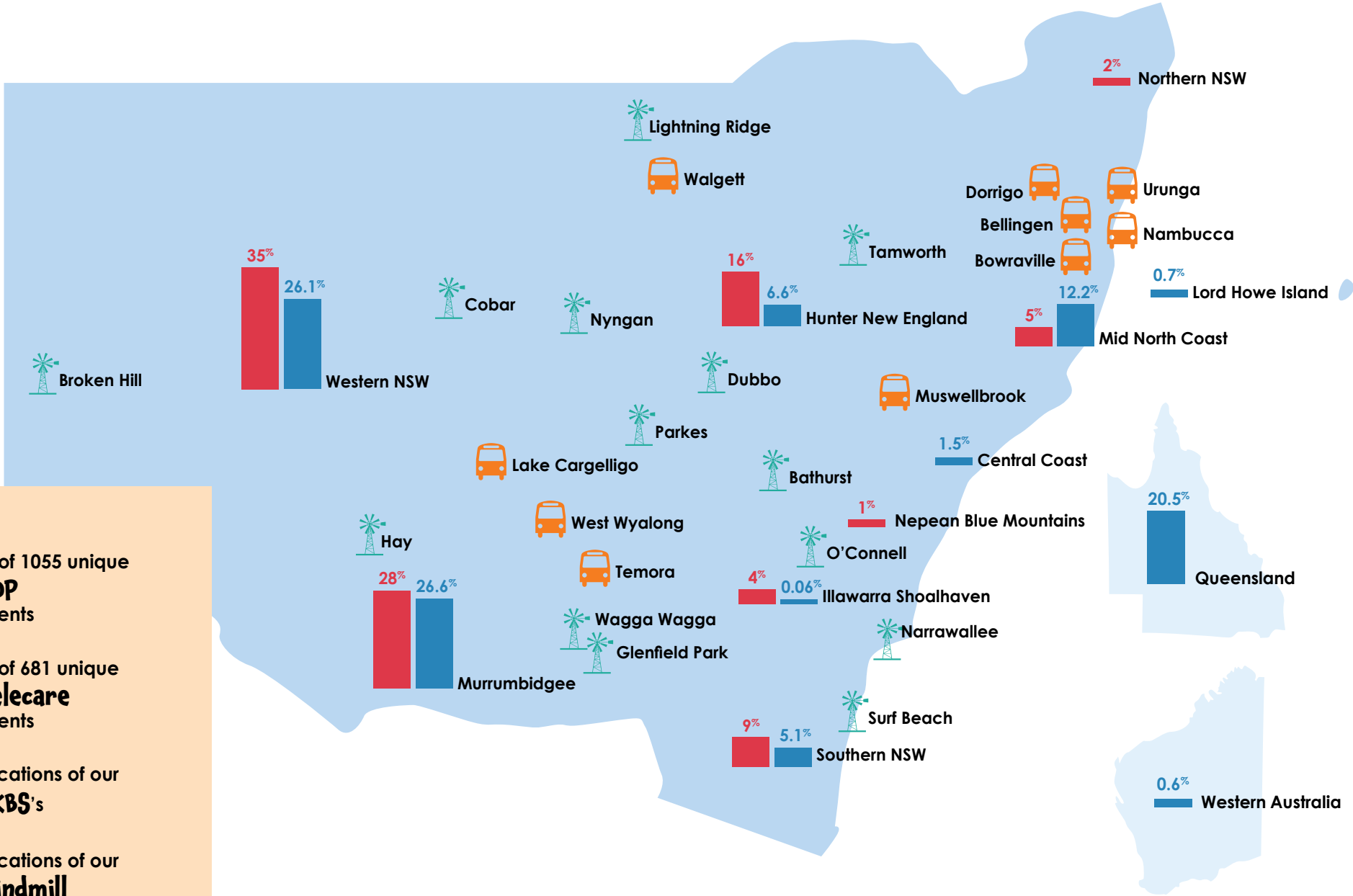
Our goal is to continue to expand our borders and to go where we are most needed.

 % of 1055 unique PDP clients

 % of 681 unique Telecare clients

 Locations of our HKBS's

 Locations of our Windmill families



Paediatric Developmental Program

Our Paediatric Developmental Program (PDP) is a unique, specialist multidisciplinary service for children with complex developmental issues from rural and remote NSW who cannot otherwise access local services.

The PDP is a residential program at Manly for children aged 0-12 years of age and their families who would benefit from a multidisciplinary view or a second opinion. We provide assessment, diagnosis and support services through our team of experienced clinicians who specialise in child development and the assessment and management of complex needs.

Families stay onsite for up to a week, with the children attending RFW's onsite NSW Department of Education School when not in appointments. We offer a therapeutic recreation program and parenting sessions. We also support access to a play therapy program for children who have experienced significant trauma and need additional support.

Families often participate in the PDP for several years, and make multiple visits to RFW. In between visits, we work with local schools and services to support families, and use Telecare wherever possible to support review and therapy.

In 2016/17, there has been a significant increase in referrals to the PDP. The demand for

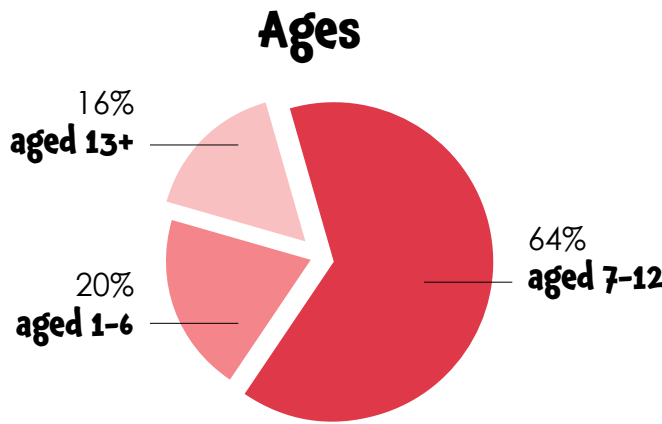
support between visits to Manly increased, and 5% of our support was provided via Telecare in Paediatric, Psychiatry and School feedback sessions. We have sharpened our focus on trauma-informed practice and family-centred care and increased our work with parents, running Tuning Into Kids workshops once a month and weekly regulation sessions to teach parents how to help their children remain calm.

In 2016/17, RFW ran 259 feedback videolink sessions with schools. These sessions are a critical communication and planning tool for the PDP, allowing RFW clinicians and teachers to engage with the child's local school, clinicians and parents to explain assessment and diagnosis results and discuss appropriate strategies to support the child in their local environment.

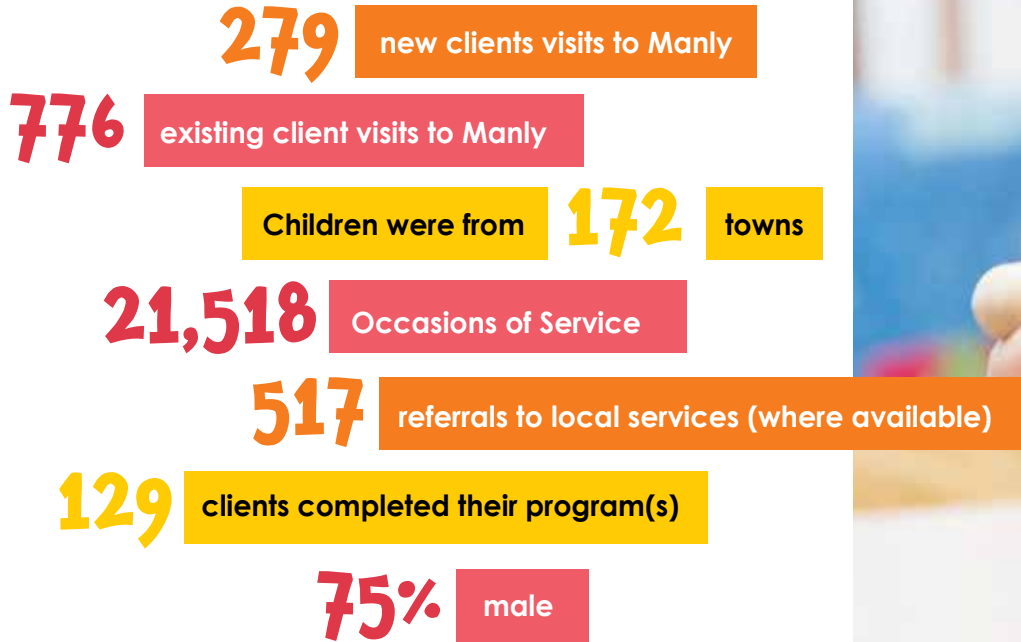
Feedback

From a Mum: A huge thank you to everyone within the Royal Far West team/network/community. You guys are simply amazing!! We cannot say enough about how totally awesome our entire experience has been. To simply see some spark, a little light, and that smile you all have put into Robbie's heart & soul (and mine). It's so inspiring to be here, your entire team is just brilliant. I have learnt so much, we will learn together now. We cannot wait to continue this journey with you in the coming months/year. From the very top to the bottom. THANK YOU. We are looking forward now. Jen & Robbie (June 2017), xxxx

* Names have been changed to protect our clients and their families



Statistics



Telecare For Kids

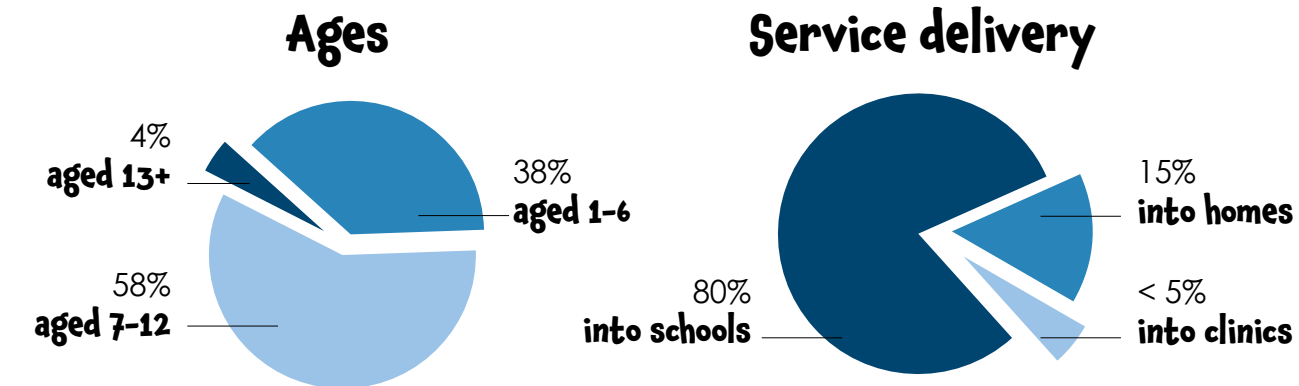
Connecting country children to specialist care

RFW's Telecare for Kids program connects country children with our clinicians based in Manly for specialist assessment, therapy and capacity building in their communities via videolink.

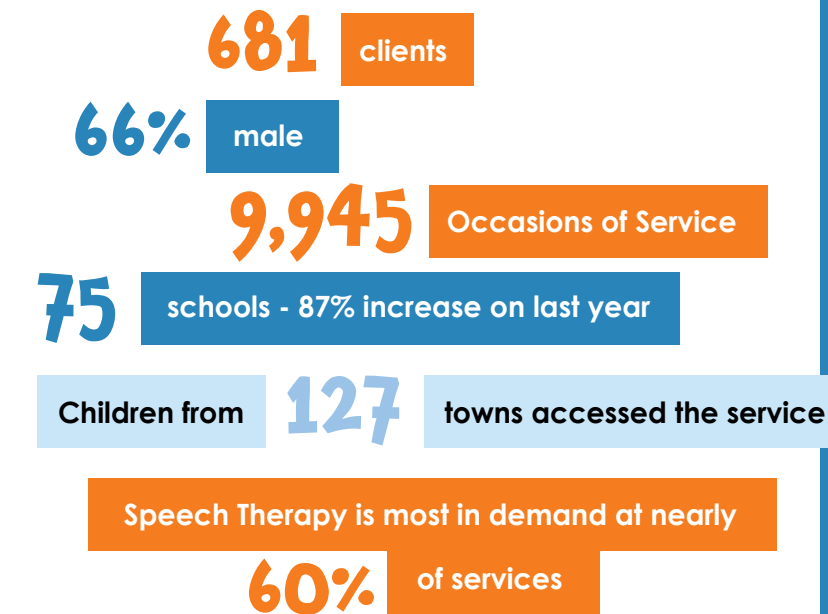
Telecare for Kids is proving transformative in improving access to services and reducing developmental vulnerability in rural and remote communities. We are the only national multidisciplinary Telecare provider that is dedicated to rural and remote children and families.

In 2016/17 we significantly increased the depth and breadth of our Telecare for Kids program, working with 681 clients in 75 schools in NSW and Queensland. We increased our focus on training and capacity building for rural parents, early intervention in preschools to support readiness to learn, and mental health early intervention services.

Demand for RFW Tele-Mental Health services grew threefold and is set to become our largest Telecare service by 2020.



Statistics



Outcomes

- 85% met or exceeded therapy goals (720 goals set in total)
- 90% of parents were satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of care provided by their child's clinician
- 93% of parents would enrol their child in another Telecare program if needed
- 93% of parents would recommend the service to other parents

Feedback

From a Principal: "Our school has been in partnership with Royal Far West for the last 2 years to access support for our kids - learning that otherwise is impossible.... Previously there was no option of support at all. Due to our isolation and remoteness there was simply no other viable option available to access specialist support for these kids. They just continued to experience breakdowns in all oral communications in all aspects of their lives. The program has been a lifeline for our kids and their future prospects in life. I cannot underestimate the value of this opportunity for our kids and for our learning community. The impact on the student learning outcomes has been phenomenal. Imagine being 5 years old and not being able to speak and communicate properly? The limitations and impact would disadvantage one in all areas for the rest of their life. The program has been a game changer for our kids and their learning."

Parent comment: "It was wonderful that the service has speech therapy for my child. He really enjoyed his sessions and his speech has improved."

Windmill

Powering ability together

Launched in November 2015, Windmill is an innovative disability service dedicated to children aged 2-12 years from rural and remote communities who are eligible for NDIS and DSS federal funding. Families may also choose to privately purchase Windmill services.

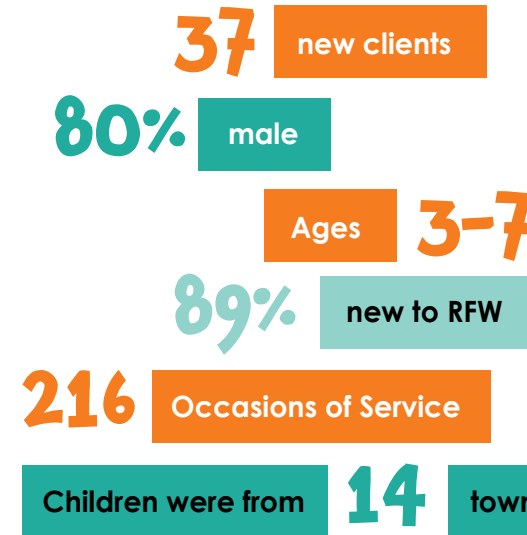
During 2016/17 the program overcame the barriers of geography, launching our Telecare service, in addition to our intensive early intervention therapy blocks provided in Manly.

RFW and the Windmill Program were formally recognised for excellence and innovation to improve outcomes for people with disability as a joint winner of the 2017 NSW Disability Innovation Award in the 'Innovation in Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People' category.

RFW is a NDIS approved provider.



Statistics



Outcomes

- 80% of families achieved their SMART goals during the visit
- 100% satisfaction rates

Feedback

Parent comment: "Before coming to RFW we had no real concept of what was in front of us. We didn't grasp all of Tim's* needs and weren't informed of just how complex his needs are. The team at RFW explained and taught us so much. The goals are so clear and achievable now, something we didn't feel before coming to the Windmill program.

"We now know how to talk to Tim for him to understand us. We now have that connection with him and are able to inject ourselves into his world so that every moment is a learning opportunity. Previously we felt as if we lived beside Tim, we are now with him.

"The Windmill program at RFW has changed our lives after one visit. When Tim was diagnosed in Oct 2016 it felt like our world got knocked off its axis. Everything we knew as parents was irrelevant in the autism world. We received limited help in our isolated town and would travel 300km to Dubbo for a 45 minute speech session. The Windmill program was so intensive and so unique to us that it feels like our world has been knocked back into line. We feel supported, in control and on track to provide Tim the best opportunity for success in life. We can't wait to come back!"

*Name changed to ensure the privacy of our client and his family

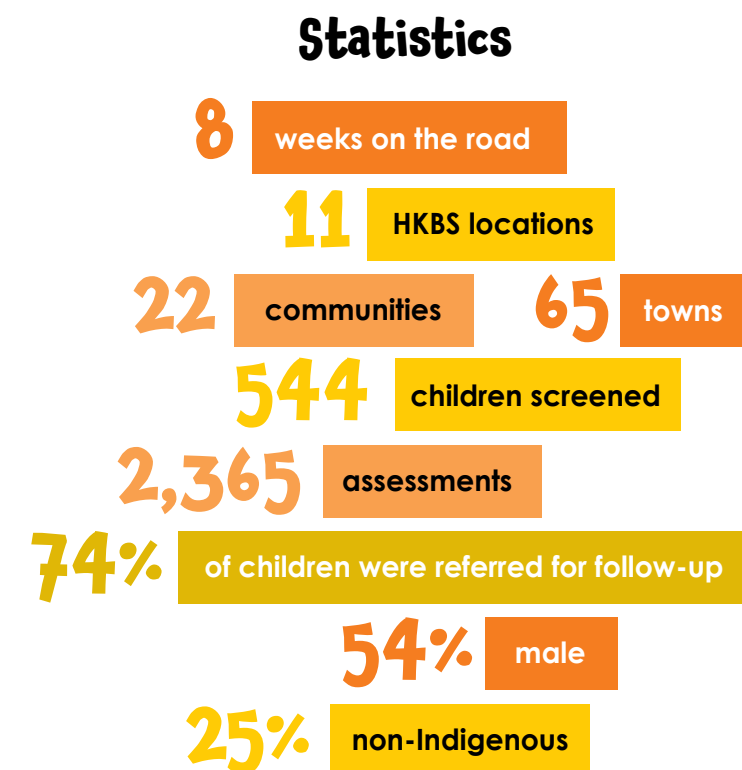
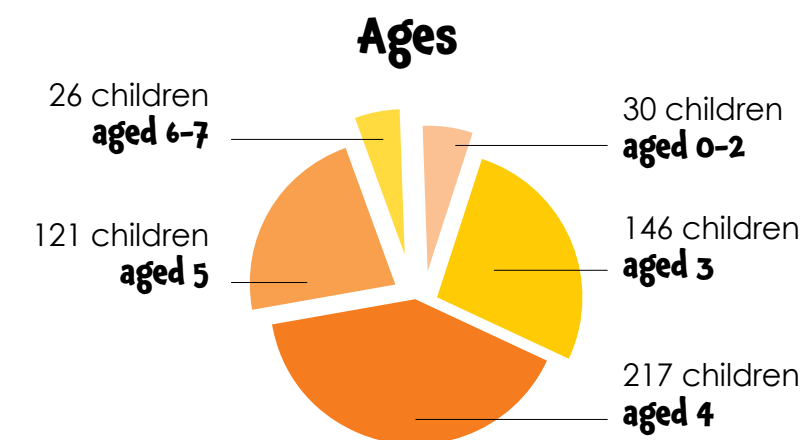




Healthy Kids Bus Stop

RFW's award-winning Healthy Kids Bus Stop program provides a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary health screening and pathway to care for 3-5 year old children, aiming to improve their school readiness through the detection of lifestyle risk factors, delayed development and/or illness. The program is delivered in rural and remote communities in collaboration with local services and schools.

Prior to each Bus Stop we partner and consult with multiple organisations in each region to plan and identify appropriate children in the area for screening, including health providers, preschools and primary schools. Children identified as requiring further assessment are referred to appropriate local services for ongoing care and intervention. Children with complex needs may also be referred to our PDP service. Our screenings in Walgett were conducted in partnership with the Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service.



Feedback

Parent: "Prior to the Healthy Kids Bus Stop assessment we had no idea that our son needed help with his speech. He is now receiving therapy and we have already noticed a difference – he is more confident and his speech is clearer."

"The Healthy Kids Bus Stop visit is part of the Nambucca Valley Integrated Care Program, bringing together health service providers from across the region. Welcoming the bus to our local area ensures our children are able to access this important health assessment program." Mid North Coast Local Health District Director Allied Health & Integrated Care, Bronwyn Chalker

Murrumbidgee Local Health District Chief Executive Jill Ludford says that the program provides the opportunity to connect a child's local GP with the Child and Family Health Nurse and other local and specialist services, providing a whole picture of a child's health and developmental needs. *"The Healthy Kids Bus Stop visit brings together a range of health service providers from across the region. Having the bus come visit West Wyalong ensured our local children were able to access this important health screening program, which can have a huge impact on their future health and education outcomes,"* Jill explains.

Recreation

Our dedicated Recreation team plays a vital role in the RFW service model. The team runs a weekly program of therapeutic recreation activities that further supports the goals of our children and their families when they are in Manly for the PDP, Windmill or Therapy Camps.

The recreation program aims to build confidence and skills in a fun environment and improve outcomes for clients and their siblings through a range of physical and creative activities, including sensory play, active movement, and creative play.

Highlights

- Veggie Garden and Cooking Program, where the children spend time in our veggie garden, and then cook, using at least one ingredient from the garden
- Triangle Café for parents (the children prepare and cook the food and serve it to their families)
- Dance & karaoke
- Family scavenger hunt
- Family games nights
- Rock climbing
- Fishing
- Swimming lessons
- Nature walks
- Beach games

Feedback from children and parents

“Had the best time ever and absolutely loved all of it!”

“Staff are awesome”

“Great things to do and great people”

“Kids loved it”

“My child loved everything”

“Get to do a lot of things we have not done before”

“We love you all, thank you for giving my son the best fun”

“Being able to participate in things”

“The kids got to socialise and have fun”



Therapeutic Camps

Our health and wellbeing camps are designed to educate, build capacity and give confidence to children and their parents, all within a fun, relaxed environment while staying at RFW.

In 2016/17 we ran two camps:

RFW Autism Camp focused on children developing skills and making new friends, and parents in understanding and communicating about their child's diagnosis.

Wellington Indigenous Leaders Camp focused on providing education and inspiration to 'at risk' Indigenous youth to encourage better life choices for them and their peers.

Oral Health & Wellbeing

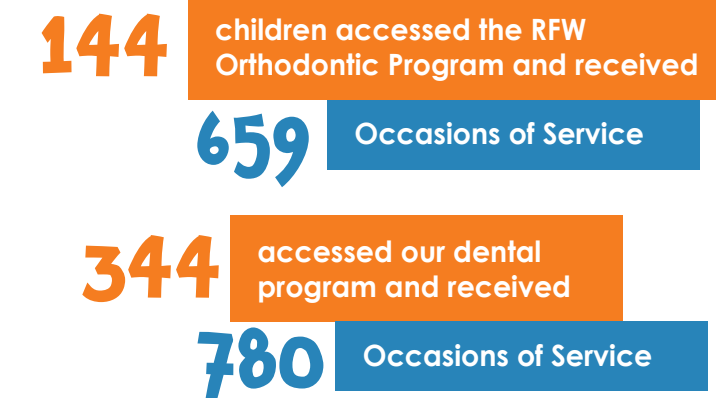
Poor oral health in childhood is a strong predictor of poor adult oral health, which can lead to health issues including diabetes, obesity and oral cancer. At RFW, we provide a range of oral health services and education to children and families who have difficulty accessing these locally.

RFW's dedicated dental service provides check-ups and treatment, and specialises in dental work for children with intellectual disability or behaviour issues.

Our philanthropic Orthodontic Program for children with significant malocclusion is run onsite at Manly. Children receive ongoing treatment for an average of four years.

This year, a total of 484 children accessed our Oral Health Unit. We also developed a new Oral Health Education program that is available to all families that visit us in Manly. The program aims to ensure that families follow good oral health routines and understand the long-term benefits of this.

Statistics



Innovation

This year has seen RFW develop and test various new service models with key partners - pooling resources, drawing on the use of Telecare, and working with local organisations to enhance services and outcomes. In each case, communities have invited our team to work with them to enhance local capacity and services.

Wide Bay Early Intervention Model

RFW has worked with Central Queensland, Wide Bay and Sunshine Coast Primary Health Network to implement an enhanced Paediatric Early Intervention Allied Health service model for local preschools, using Telecare. Following initial work on the ground with local stakeholders, RFW delivered a combination of capacity building and therapy services into participating preschools using Telecare. Eighty-five per cent of children achieved or exceeded at least one of their therapy goals and qualitative data showed positive outcomes relating to child development and behaviour, staff knowledge and skill and parental satisfaction. An expanded model will run in 2017/18.

Cloncurry Integrated Mental Health Model

North and West Remote Health and RFW, with the support of Aurizon and Cloncurry Council, worked together to develop a specialist Allied Health (Speech Therapy and Occupational Therapy) and Mental Health service for children in the Cloncurry Shire. RFW partnered with local clinicians to deliver counselling, occupational therapy and speech therapy via Telecare to children aged 4-8 who were developmentally vulnerable and showing early signs of, or at risk of, developing a mental illness. In addition to enhancing service access, the model was designed to build the capability of local staff and schools to support children.

Murrumbidgee 'Connect For Kids'

RFW partnered with Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network to develop a 'virtual' psychology service to provide short term counselling for children aged up to 15 years who have mild to moderate mental health symptoms. Initially a strategy to reduce waiting lists in the area, this model is now an established option for children in need of counselling or other psychological support.



Denise McCale Andrews, Katherine Burchfield and Lillian Chestnut

Fitzroy Crossing 'Marurra-U' Partnership

Under our long term partnership with Marninwartikura Women's Resource Centre (MWRC), RFW visited the Fitzroy Crossing community twice to increase community knowledge and capacity to support children with developmental issues, including those impacted by Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and early life trauma, and develop our understanding of community needs. We also hosted MWRC staff in Manly. Building on this work, in 2017-18 we will pilot alternative service models, including a therapeutic camp and Telecare programs, to test the appropriateness and effectiveness of these models for Aboriginal families in the community.

Memorandum of Understanding

Following exchange of visits between RFW staff and Fitzroy Crossing community leaders, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between RFW and Marninwartikura Women's Resource Centre (MWRC) in October 2016. RFW's expertise in trauma-informed, family-centred care was just what community leaders June Oscar AO and Emily Carter were looking for to support their community in building capacity and services for children with complex needs. June and Emily's vision is for a "harm-free Fitzroy Valley", where FASD and the consequences of Early Life Trauma are no longer having a devastating impact on their people, and their community feels empowered to manage the complex needs of their children today. RFW is honoured to work with MWRC and other stakeholders, illustrating that through a strong partnership spanning 4,000km, solutions are possible.



June Oscar AO (back) with Emily Carter and Lindsay Cane

"Following the HKBS I have been able to get my daughter into speech therapy and she has already started to improve. The bus stop was a great help to connect me with services, and I am looking forward to seeing more progress."

"Thank you so much for your support! RFW is amazing and so are all their kind, friendly staff. My son is still currently a patient and will be for many years."

FEEDBACK

"This is my first time here and my response is so positive, they have created a place with such overwhelming support by people who really care for your child. Thank you Royal Far West and all the people who have touched our lives."

"By helping these kids to receive the therapy they need, you are not only helping them to find their voice. You are helping them grow into more confident, happier kids. You are giving them an opportunity to learn new skills, build stronger relationships and hopefully achieve all their hopes and dreams!" Teacher, Qld.

Fragility and Friendship Photography Exhibition

Last year we engaged curator Jean-Francois Lanzarone to create Fragility and Friendship, a photographic celebration of RFW's unique story. The exhibition captured authentic, happy and often stark moments in the lives of RFW children over the decades.

The exhibition made its public debut at NSW Parliament House from 25 July to 19 August 2016, and our media partner Prime7 filmed the event, giving us strong coverage in regional and rural areas.

Thanks to our friends at MAF, Canon, Kayell and TAF for their invaluable support.

Visit www.fragilityandfriendship.com to view this inspirational exhibition.



Luke

Case Study

Like many of our families, Luke comes from a rural area of NSW, where he lived too far away to attend regular speech therapy services. Using our Telecare services, he can access regular therapy at his school.

Luke has a family history of speech and language difficulties. He had not accessed speech therapy services for many years when he was referred to RFW Telecare by his class teacher at age nine. Luke's teacher reported that his speech difficulties meant that he did not have the confidence to speak in class.

Luke attended eight Telecare Speech Therapy sessions with the support of a teacher's aide, who completed a follow up session with him each week. The focus of his sessions was his production of speech sounds, particularly the transitions between sounds and syllables in multisyllabic words, and his ability to listen to syllables and sounds within words. Words from his classroom, texts and curriculum were used.

He was a quiet, hard worker in sessions, completing all of the activities to the best of his abilities, often with a small, cheeky smile. He particularly responded well to use of positive

reinforcement and curriculum based therapy activities during the sessions.

By the end of the term Luke was able to 100% correctly segment words into syllables.

Luke's skills and confidence grew over the term. By the end of term Luke was able to correctly say 80% of new multisyllabic words. He was able to confidently give a speech in class and complete a five minute voiceover for a class project. His class teacher and teacher's aide were very happy with his progress and sent emails outlining their excitement at him being about to complete classroom speaking activities with confidence and good skills.

RFW has made the decision to de-identify all clinical case studies, ensuring the privacy of our clients and their families.

This case study is representative of our demographic of children aged 2-12 who live in country areas.

Research & Evaluation

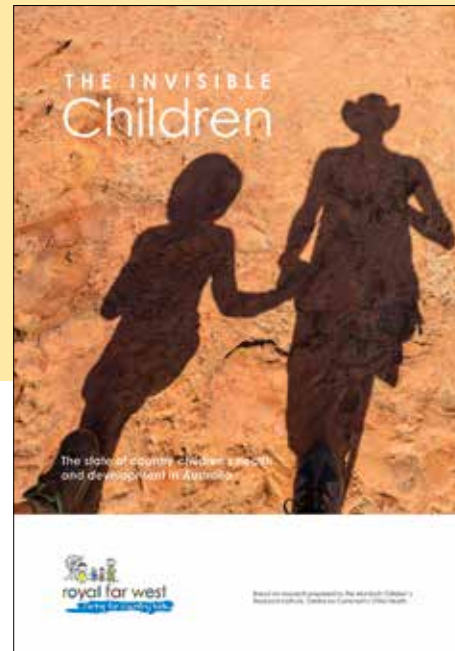
At RFW we have a strategic commitment to evidence-based practice, and we strive for service excellence by putting quality and outcomes at the heart of what we do. We have a dedicated research and evaluation team that works with our service to create new research and evidence, develop new service models, evaluate and improve our programs, and support advocacy.

The RFW ethos is to collaborate and to go where we are needed. We seek to work with organisations that share our commitment to improve the health and wellbeing of country children.

Key Research Initiatives

CCCH Report

In early 2017 we commissioned the Centre for Community Child Health (CCCH) to complete a systematic review of the state of children's developmental health across rural and remote Australia. The results will be made available in September 2017.



TRIP Fellowship – National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)

In 2016 we supported a successful application with Associate Professor Alex Martiniuk from the University of Sydney and the George Institute for Global Health for a NHMRC Translating Research into Practice (TRIP) fellowship. Work under this fellowship is focused on a mixed methods study, TELEHANCED: Best evidence to best practice: Improving access to care with enhanced Telecare for children in rural NSW. We are honoured to have a resident TRIP Fellow leading this two-year research project with RFW.

Access Early Intervention (EI)

We are nearing the end of our five-year NHMRC research project with the Child Behaviour Research Clinic at University of Sydney, focused on an online treatment program for children with conduct disorders (Access EI). The research involves a randomised control trial of online versus face to face treatment. Early findings on the efficacy of the online treatment model are positive, with results due early in 2018.

Publications

We are proud of the papers that were published this year with our collaboration. This work not only contributes vital knowledge to the child health and development space at all levels, but it also demonstrates RFW's commitment to supporting the development of evidence-based practice and the delivery of gold standard services for children in rural and remote Australia.

Rotary Scholarship

This year, RFW hosted an International Rotary Health PhD scholar to look at embedding evidence-based tools within our electronic record system to better support the measurement of service effectiveness, impact, cost-efficiency and research. We thank the Rotary Club of Manly for its tremendous support in securing the highly regarded Rotary Scholarship.



Raising Funds & Awareness

Fundraising revenue is critical for our organisation to grow, so we can support more children. This year, fundraising contributed \$2,602,114 towards our revenue, representing an increase of 25.6% on last year. With only one third of our revenue coming from government grants, the two-thirds we raise from generous individual and regular donors, Branches, Op Shop volunteers, community groups, philanthropic trusts and foundations, businesses and schools is vital to continue the important work we do.

Ride for Country Kids

Our signature event for the year was Ride for Country Kids (RFCK), which raised \$638,000 in 2017, enabling us to deliver Telecare packages into schools for more than 1,000 children.

Held in March, RFCK was bigger and better than ever, with 97 riders pedalling more than 420km in challenging conditions over a three-day period. The Ride highlights the importance of our role in country communities, and our Riders get to experience the support and affection that many country communities hold for RFW.

The Ride commenced at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga on Sunday 12 March, finishing in Orange on Tuesday 14 March.

The Ride would not be possible without the support of our Principal and Founding Partner FDC Construction and Fitout, our Major Partner ANZ, our Media Community Partner Prime7 and our Event Management Partner Entoure. We sincerely thank you all.

Many other organisations play a role in making the ride a success. We sincerely thank our friends and supporters:

- John Rafferty and the C.ex Group
- Professor Andy Vann and Charles Sturt University
- Andrew Price and Inspire Management Consulting
- Damien Coates and DUAL Australia
- Rohan Stewart and PSC Insurance Brokers (Aust) Pty Ltd
- Kiri Brain and Nexia Australia
- Dean Kuch and Thinkingworks by Thinking Ergonomix
- Nick Johnston and Front Page Management
- Katherine and Peter Mahoney and Soliton Network Consulting
- Peter Camp and Sydney Business Park
- Simon Sellars and Boyce Chartered Accountants
- Frank Giunta and Classic Tiles
- Amanda Grannall and ClubsNSW
- Sinclair Black and his vlog

A big shout out to Orange Ex-Services Club for hosting our Gala night and awarding RFW \$15,000 to cover the entire cost of the dinner.

Incredible mum Cathy Hunt took to the microphone to tell her story. Cathy and her husband Rob have been foster parents for 27 years, with four of their children accessing our services over the last 12 years.

Cathy explained the impact RFW has had on Jack, their eldest. "If it wasn't for RFW, Jack would not have been able to concentrate on his school studies, let alone obtain his Commercial Cookery Certificate. We are so grateful to RFW for giving our children hope for their futures."



Cathy Hunt with her son Jack



“Meeting and hearing the families and children directly receiving support from RFW is a highly motivating experience to make me want to continue helping to raise funds, and also to speak to my own friends, family and wider community to relay their experience and voice”.

RFCK Rider



The gala dinner is a highlight of the Ride, and the dinner this year was a roaring success with generous support of many people, including:

- Scott from Burns Auctions Orange for being our amazing auctioneer
- Ambassador and SBS commentator Mike Tomalaris for donating fabulous prizes
- Tennis great Wally Masur for being an Ambassador and donating prizes including a Rafael Nadal shirt and private tennis lessons
- The wonderful Prime7 reporter and Rider Daniel Gibson (aka Gibbo) for MCing.

We send a special thanks to our volunteer photographer Michael Mannington, who was on hand to capture many magic moments.

Community engagement was a strong focus of the Ride in 2017, and we invited local councils, schools, preschools, GPs and Paediatricians to celebrate with us as we rode through their towns. We received Mayoral welcomes from Wagga Wagga, Cowra and Orange, plus we heard heartfelt speeches and enjoyed conversations from members of families whose children had attended, or are attending Royal Far West services. The majority of our Riders commented that listening to the positive impact that RFW has on these children was of amazing value to them.

A massive highlight for the Riders was visiting five schools along the route, where they were

cheered and encouraged by excited school children. A big thank you to the Principals, teachers and children at Greenethorpe School, St Edwards Primary School at Canowindra, St Mary's School in Young, Young High School and Young Public School.

Thank you to the local media who gave us amazing coverage including 171 spots worth more than \$770,000. Prime7 created two advertisements to promote the Ride and conducted fabulous interviews along the way, which they showed on their television stations daily. Free Ride coverage also appeared on WIN TV, in 36 newspaper articles, 14 radio interviews and 26 online news articles.

In 2018, RFCK will ride from Bourke to Lightning Ridge. Details of this exciting Ride are on our website!



Sydney Business Park team raised the most funds, contributing a huge \$75,972. Amazing effort!



The Principal of St Edwards Primary School commented, “Well, what can I say except THANK YOU. I've been at St Edwards for 15 years, and that was the best morning I've ever had! I can only imagine how our children felt ... It's so nice to see so many people making a difference for those in need ... you deserve to be rewarded in so many ways. We are forever grateful!”





Individual Giving

Individual Giving is a critical focus area as we diversify our fundraising portfolio and build a sustainable fundraising program to support our planned growth.

Our 2017 tax campaign was our first integrated cross-channel campaign, reaching existing donors and new supporters via email, mail and social media. Our featured family resonated with our donors who gave generously, raising nearly \$30,000 over a 4-week period to support country children.

The generosity of friends is what makes the RFW model work so well.

Bequests

It is an honour to be remembered in someone's Will. This year \$773,000 was gratefully received. We respectfully invite readers to consider a charitable gift to RFW. Please call 02 8966 8500 for more information.

Personal Events

Susan Crawford

How generous it was to have our good friend Susan Crawford share her landmark birthday with RFW. Not only was the party with the Hoodoo Gurus a highlight, but Susan's guests and her family donated to RFW in lieu of gifts, and through this initiative, \$5,000 worth of care for our children has been made possible. Thanks Susan, David and friends!



Susan Crawford celebrating with her husband David

(L-R) NSW Parliamentary Lions Club President Stephen Bromhead MP handing a cheque to Lindsay Cane, alongside The Hon Thomas George PM and Geoff Provest MP.



NSW Parliamentary Lions Club
\$47,133 raised

The Rotary Club of Manly
\$15,500 raised

Manly Rotary Fun Run & Walk
\$1,387 raised

Bold and Beautiful
\$11,989 raised

Vivid Cocktail Party
\$5,000+ raised

Mercure Sydney
\$30,000+ raised

Manly Sports Luncheon
\$12,165 raised

Sulky Drive – Liverpool Plains
\$9,100 raised

Coonamble Annual Fundraiser
\$16,000+ raised



Caroline Stewart and Peter Honeyman

Community Fundraising

Throughout our 94-year-old history we have relied upon community fundraising to help support our mission, and we are proud of the relationships we have nurtured over the years with many people who raise funds for RFW through initiatives in their own communities.

We wish to thank everyone who has organised, attended, helped or bought raffle tickets at a fundraising event to support RFW to deliver services to country children. Here are a few of the wonderful events/initiatives held during the last year:

Scrumptious BBQ



Photo: Destination NSW

Murray Hartin & Narelle Turvey



Mary Ann & Malcolm Lampe



Branches and Op Shops

We are blessed to have strong and enduring support from our Branches and Op Shops in rural and remote towns throughout NSW. Our dedicated members give us so much in the way of their time, energy and passion that it would be almost impossible for us to reach into as many communities as we do without their help.

Our Branches are in Bourke, Coffs Harbour, Coolamon, Coonamble, Deepwater, Dubbo, Dubbo Wagon Wheelers, Forbes, Gravesend, Grenfell, Hay, Leeton, Manildra, Nyngan, Orange, Port Macquarie, Quirindi, Trundle and West Wyalong. Our Op Shops are in Coffs Harbour, Forbes, Port Macquarie and Trundle.

Operating under a Branch structure with Presidents, Secretaries and Executive teams, our wonderful volunteers use their skills in their communities to raise awareness of RFW, promote our services and host a variety of fundraising events each year, from regular raffles and annual dinners through to managing their Op Shops. Thanks to the ongoing efforts of our Branch and Op Shop members, a huge \$308,000 was raised to support country children.

Every year representatives from each Branch are invited to our Branch Conference in Manly, where they meet up with other Branch members as well as our Board members and staff, and have the opportunity to learn more about RFW and share the results of their successful activities.



RFW Chairman Richard Barron celebrates Grenfell Branch's 80th birthday with (L-R) Marie Cotter, Margaret Cuddihy and Jenny Wells

Branch in Focus: Grenfell

Grenfell Branch has just celebrated its 80th year of support for RFW. What an incredible achievement for members past and present to have been helping children in rural and remote communities for so many years.

Branch President Margaret Cuddihy explains her involvement, "I joined the RFW Sunshine Club Branch in the 1990s, but it wasn't until I went to my first conference in Manly that I really felt a strong connection. The staff and families in Manly were just wonderful and their kindness and caring natures will always stay with me.

"There was an honesty about Royal Far West that I hadn't understood before my first conference. There was a purity to it, an openness, and I understood that the donations we received and the money we made in our small home town of Grenfell were going directly to the children. We saw first-hand how it was spent. We met the families and were able to enjoy some of their recreation time with them.

"I've now been the very proud President of the Grenfell Branch since 1998 and can honestly say that it is knowing that the early trust RFW gave me that has kept me working so hard for them for so long. We also have a lot of fun and have made many life-long friends."



Thanks to Google for all their hard work

Corporate Volunteering

Our corporate volunteering program offers our corporate friends a great way to engage with us, meet some of the children and families who use our service, and give something back to the local community.

In June this year a team from Google participated in our "Day in the life of a RFW country kid" corporate volunteering program, learning more about our Telecare programs, preparing cooking and serving a healthy BBQ lunch, and participating in the afternoon recreation program with the children – making fruit monsters, tidying up the edible garden, creating stop/go animations and more! Thanks Google!

Ring us on 02 8966 8500 if your company is interested in volunteering with RFW.



Accommodation

To best use our assets, last year we actively opened our accommodation sites for corporate strategy days, group bookings and families, when our client families are not in residence. This was hugely successful, increasing accommodation booking revenue by 56%. We are advertising through a variety of avenues, from RFW Facebook posts to Airbnb, and have enjoyed repeat bookings from groups including the Moorambilla Choir. Our goal is to offer our guesthouse to new guests, to show them some "country hospitality – in the city" while effectively sponsoring our services to our children. Tell your family and friends!

Moorambilla Choir





Awards

Innovation Award

This year we were thrilled to be selected by National Disability Services as joint winner of the NSW Disability Innovation Award in the category of *Innovation in Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People*. The Disability Industry Innovation Awards formally recognise and reward excellence and innovation demonstrated by people and organisations who work to improve outcomes for people with disability.

Winning this Award has firmly established us as an innovative disability provider, and in the current competitive marketplace this has given us a huge profile and exposure.

NDIS Provider

We have been approved as a registered National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) provider, which is a big win for country children with a disability and will allow RFW the opportunity to support more children with special needs.



Media

We utilise newspapers, magazines, television, radio, internet news and social media to build awareness of the growing need for support for country children, and to explain how we help these children, their families and communities.

This year's media brought us a cumulative audience of 10.3 million people, with an advertising value of \$2,129,391, at no expense to RFW.

Following on from the media success of the RFCK, this year we established a new strategic partnership with Fairfax Australian Community Media to support our advocacy plan and to help raise awareness of the challenges facing developmentally vulnerable children from country areas. The partnership will include events, advertising and co-branded advocacy.

F/y Advertising \$ value		
	Advertising value \$ (gifted to RFW)	Advertising value %
Newspapers	\$1,165,885	55
Radio	\$198,743	9
TV	\$410,141	19
Online news	\$354,622	17
	\$2,129,391	100

Case Study

William

Living in rural NSW, William could not access the services he needed in his home town. He is now accessing regular therapy via Telecare at his school.

William has a primary diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

William has been a RFW client since 2013. During this time he has had occupational therapy (OT) support on and off depending on the current concerns.

William was referred to the RFW OT ('open therapy') Telecare program by his school teachers and a RFW speech pathologist. The local speech pathologist had been doing weekly therapy with William when concerns were reported regarding some of his behaviours and emotional regulation.

Initially a session was held with William's mother and father. They also reported a significant deterioration in his regulatory capacities at home. They reported he had been irritable and withdrawn, and having more outbursts.

A plan was made to do joint sessions with William's parents and teachers. The goals were for William to be calm/alert at school and to widen his social interactions.

In term 2, 2017, two fortnightly sessions were held with follow up email support/resources. The RFW OT provided education about regulation (i.e. achieving and maintaining a calm/alert state of arousal) and strategies adults could use with William to support him to remain calm/alert during the day at school (e.g. heavy work, deep pressure, empathy, importance of relationships and problem solving). The focus was on William's interests and motivations, working with the teachers to implement these things as a part of his existing routine.

Teachers have successfully implemented the agreed strategies and the focus is now moving to extending the length of time William is at school each day, working up to a full day.

Williams's family and teachers have been so receptive in sessions and consistently report finding the sessions of great value.

RFW has made the decision to de-identify all clinical case studies, ensuring the privacy of our clients and their families.

This case study is representative of our demographic of children aged 2-12 who live in country areas.

Our Future

RFW is extending its service in a systematic and careful way that involves close partnerships with communities. We are moving towards being a national child development service that fills an increasing number of gaps in hard-to-reach places through innovative solutions that combine service delivery, capacity building and advocacy. Building the capacity of parents, teachers and other people in children's lives through knowledge and resources, and working deeply with rural and remote communities, are increasing focal points.

To increase our reach and impact, we are developing new programs, increasing our network of partners, developing our stakeholder and community relationships and generating new revenue streams. We are also looking for new funding partners to come on the journey with us, and help to make a difference. Our aim is to be a national asset for children and families across rural Australia.

Key initiatives in the coming year include:

- * Centre for Child Health and Learning
- * Brand Refresh
- * Diversification of Revenue
- * Advocacy

Centre for Child Health and Learning

Our purpose-built \$35 million Centre for Child Health and Learning (CCHL) is on track to open for business by late 2018. A critical part of our strategic plan, it will help us deliver specialist healthcare to more children and families each year. The six-storey building will include the Royal Far West school; consulting and observation rooms; a paediatric oral health unit with a dental and orthodontics room; play areas; meeting rooms; ophthalmology; occupational therapy; social work; speech pathology; psychology; child psychiatry; paediatric services; sensory rooms and a Telecare centre.

As the Minister for Regional Development Fiona Nash put it, *"this is a big win for families living in rural Australia"*.

We celebrated a key milestone in March of this year with the Sod Turning event. The NSW Minister for Health, the Hon Brad Hazzard, representing the Premier, and Parliamentary Secretary for Regional and Rural Health Leslie Williams officially "turned the first sod".

For more information and ongoing updates on the new build, please visit:
www.royalfarwest.org.au/new-facilities

"The NSW Government is proud to support this great initiative, because we are committed to ensuring families in rural and remote areas around the State receive essential health services."

NSW Premier, Gladys Berejiklian

Tony Abbott, our local Federal Member, re-affirmed the Federal Government's contribution to the build with his visit and site tour in May. Mr Abbott said: *"The Centre for Child Health and Learning will be a world-class facility dedicated to the health and wellbeing of regional and remote children and their families. Royal Far West has been a part of the Manly community since 1924."*



Lindsay Cane with 10-year-old Alexandra Harris and NSW Health Minister Brad Hazzard at our Sod Turning Ceremony

Construction underway



A visual of CCHL

Brand Refresh

RFW has a long, rich history in country NSW. Our brand carries much equity in rural communities, however it now needs to work much harder for the organisation in terms of broadening our reach and effectively communicating our purpose.

The new RFW brand identity will be ready for the new calendar year 2018 and will reflect a progressive, national children's healthy charity that is leading the way in innovative paediatric health and wellbeing.

Our new website will reflect our refreshed brand and messaging to better inform our client families and supporters and partners. The website will keep our different stakeholder groups up to date with what we do, how they can become involved, and, most importantly, the impact we are making to help improve the health and wellbeing of children living in rural and remote communities across Australia.

Diversification of Revenue

RFW is fortunate to have a history of diversified revenue streams, including government, philanthropic, community funding and increasingly service revenue. This year we worked hard to strengthen our service revenue sources through various endeavours. Some of these include:

A major step change in our individual and regular giving base

Continued growth in service contracts and fee for service

Growth in philanthropic and corporate support

Improved use of our guest accommodation

Greater access to future National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) funding through our award-winning Windmill program

Growth in Medicare and health fund rebates



sylv1rob1 © Shutterstock.com

Advocacy

For 94 years we have provided care and specialist health interventions for country children and families. This has allowed us to build deep knowledge and understanding of children's health and the challenges of country life. As part of our evolution to become a national asset for country families we have recognised the important role we can and should play in giving country children a voice. Our aim is to build a strong evidence base on children's developmental health, particularly in rural and remote areas, and demonstrate the impact of targeted interventions in community settings. Our intention is to raise the level of conversation around childhood vulnerability in Australia, positively influence policy and inform system-wide direction in rural and remote child health and wellbeing.

In May we launched our first advocacy petition, calling for widespread community support for recognition of the inequity of access and services for rural and remote children and families. Our goal is to present the Health Minister the Honourable Greg Hunt with 10,000 petition signatures with a call to partner with RFW to shift the inequities for country children, who deserve the same access to health services as every other child in Australia. If you have not signed our online

petition please go to our website and click on the petition royalfarwest.good.do/help-our-country-kids.

To further amplify the findings of The Murdoch Children's Research Institute's Centre for Community Child Health review, RFW developed a report, "The Invisible Children", that supports and positions our advocacy agenda. The report provides further reflections on the CCCH review based on RFW's experience in providing healthcare to country children for almost 100 years.

To be released in September 2017, we will share this report with our friends in government, the corporate sector and other not-for-profits. We will also take the report into six communities across NSW to gain critical feedback from families and stakeholders operating on the ground. We plan to use the body of knowledge gained through these activities to work alongside our friends and most importantly country communities, to tackle the complex challenges facing country children and families so that all children can have the greatest opportunity to reach their full potential.

Potential Challenges

Our Strategic Plan is on track to deliver on our 2020 vision, however we remain vigilant to internal and external events which may affect our organisation at any time. Potential threats and opportunities we will continue to monitor are:

Implications of the roll out of the NDIS

Health and Social Care industry reforms and government cutbacks

The internet connectivity in some rural and remote communities remains poor, challenging the delivery of our Telecare services in some locations

Fundraising fatigue and the growing competition for grants and tenders



Governance

Our People & Systems

Structure

Our organisational structure has three Directorates: Health, Operations and Business.

Staff

We employ 125 staff. Some of our staff members have given many years of service to RFW and carry with them valuable history, stories and a record of the changes and improvements that Royal Far West has made over its long life. Our catering department's Sandy Medak has been proudly serving our children and families for 45 years, while Facilities Manager Daryl Hawthorne and Nurse Narelle Turvey have each clocked up 35 years of faithful service.

As an Equal Opportunity Employer, we promote a culture of transparency, honesty and social responsibility. Staff have access to training and educational opportunities, annual performance appraisals, flexible working hours, and a friendly working environment and of course, our beautiful beachside location.

We listen to our staff. Findings from our July 2016 staff survey indicated improvement in 39

areas of the business. We also identified areas for further improvement. The publication of our 2020 Strategic Plan was welcomed by all staff, providing clear direction and goals to which each staff member can actively contribute.

'Internal communication' had also been flagged in surveys and interviews as an area for improvement. Throughout this year we have improved communication through regular staff forums, an internal communications working party and weekly directorate updates via email.



To celebrate International Women's Day we all nominated our most inspirational female staffers with Fiona Phipps (left), Paula Brennan (centre) and Lucy Morrison (right) taking out the honours. Here they are congratulated by Katherine Burchfield and Lindsay Cane.

Volunteers

At RFW we're blessed to have cherished volunteers who willingly give their time and skills to help us support children in rural and remote areas of Australia. These people are based all over NSW in our Branches, as well as in the northern beaches, where we draw on local talent to help us at our main headquarters. We have 47 Manly-based volunteers who run our Archives Library, support us at events, help with administrative tasks, support our oral health and reading teams, and give help for specific projects. Michael Mannington, our volunteer photographer, is one example of a volunteer who unfailingly gives of his time and energy to photograph all our events and functions and make them available to our archive team for the records.

With nearly 100 years of photographs, documents and equipment to take care of, our Archives Team members are never short of things to do! They turn up every Wednesday to run our Library as well as meet ex-patients of RFW such as Glenn Taylor, a patient from the 1960s, who visited with his wife Ann to tour our premises.

On being diagnosed with the childhood hip disorder Legg-Calve-Perthes disease at age

seven, Glenn left his family in South Grafton and was admitted to the Far West hospital in the early 1960s for just over two years of rehabilitation. Glenn showed us letters that Matron Hill had sent his Mother, and letters that he had written to his Mother. He kindly donated one of his leg callipers that were made for him at Far West to our Archives. This year our archives team relocated our museum of photos and artefacts into the health centre when the Elsie Hill Building was demolished. This was a large piece of work which has helped our history remain visible and accessible to staff and clients.



1960s patient Glenn Taylor with his calliper



Lisa Richardson

Volunteer Testimonial

Lisa Richardson

Lisa is a skilled volunteer who is a great asset to RFW. She has worked for leading companies including Accenture and Macquarie Bank, providing advice as a specialist on the design and implementation of large scale systems and technology strategies.

Lisa comments, "I live with my husband and two beautiful young daughters in Curl Curl on the northern beaches of Sydney. For the last three years I have volunteered for a couple of days a week with RFW while taking a break from a rewarding career of more than 25 years in management consulting and investment banking. I love working with the talented and passionate people at RFW, and being part of an organisation that makes a real difference to the lives of many Australian children and their families. I am currently assisting with a project to develop improvements to management reporting that will provide better information to the RFW Executive team and Board, enabling better decision making and increasing accountability for delivering on RFW's 2020 Strategy."

Organisational Structure



Lindsay Cane
Chief Executive Officer



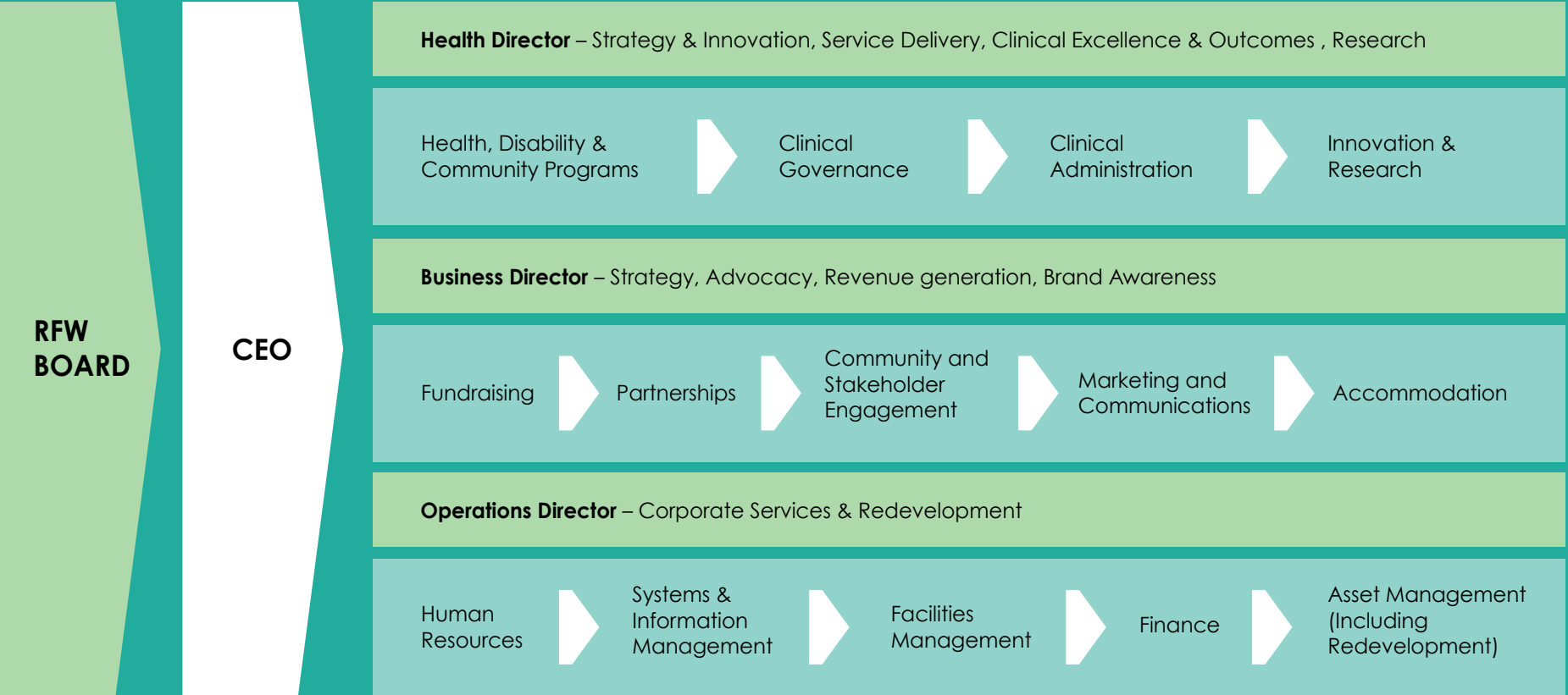
Katherine Burchfield
Health Director



Jacqui Emery
Business Director



Kevin Bone
Operations Director
Company Secretary



Financial Summary

We are pleased to report that 2016/17 was another year of significant growth and development for RFW, and is underpinned by our 2016-2020 Strategic Plan.

As a charity, fundraising and government investment in services are key to our ability to provide our unique service. The changing funding environment in the health, government and business sectors proved challenging to RFW as much as it did to many other charities and service agencies. Understanding these challenges, the Board and Executive team held true to investing in the growth of our Telecare and Windmill Programs, to enable us to achieve our outcomes of reaching and helping many more thousands of children in need.

One misconception that often challenges RFW is the view held by individuals, businesses and even some of our families, that RFW is a government agency. As a consequence, many people are not aware of the fact that RFW relies on donations, partnerships and large philanthropic gifts to meet our objectives and achieve our outcomes for rural Australia. Our relationship with NSW Health is one very important cornerstone to our business, with corporate Australia, philanthropy and the Federal government also being critical cornerstones for our continued growth and development.





Our Business Development team is working hard to strengthen the contribution of corporate Australia to our mission, while our Government Relations and Advocacy team is forging strong relations with our growing number of friends in Canberra and beyond.

Whilst the year ended with a deficit of (\$2,107,772), this was a result of planned investment in our people and a higher non-cash depreciation charge that arises from our need to write down older assets ahead of the transition into our new Centre for Child Health and Learning late in 2018.

Over the past five years, RFW has dramatically increased its effectiveness. Five years ago some 750 children benefitted from our service, this last financial year the number of children, families and educators we supported was around 5,500. The two factors that have enabled that improvement are the investment in and dedication of staff, management and Board to make the best use of the resources we have, and our new Telecare services which, allows our clinicians to offer services to children and families in some of the most remote parts of the country directly from our base in Manly.

Revenue for 2016/17 was \$10,862,559, an increase of 1% on the previous year. Last year was strong for our Business Development team with some significant gifts being entrusted to RFW from trusts, foundations and bequests.

The continued success of the Ride for Country Kids, raising more than \$600,000, was pleasing, as is the ongoing contribution from our Branch and Op Shop volunteers, whose efforts raised a wonderful \$300,000 for country children and families.

Our unique partnership with the NSW Government remains strong, with just under 30% of our

expenditure being supported by our NSW Health contract; the remaining 70% of our income is generated from fundraising, events, service contracts and the optimisation of our assets.

RFW is fortunate to receive significant gifts-in-kind from partners and friends, and this year we received more than \$350,000 worth of gifts-in-kind support.

Income generated by our land and other assets is allocated directly to Corporate and Business Development activities, so 100% of every dollar we raise can go directly to our health and wellbeing programs, supporting children and families in rural and remote Australia.

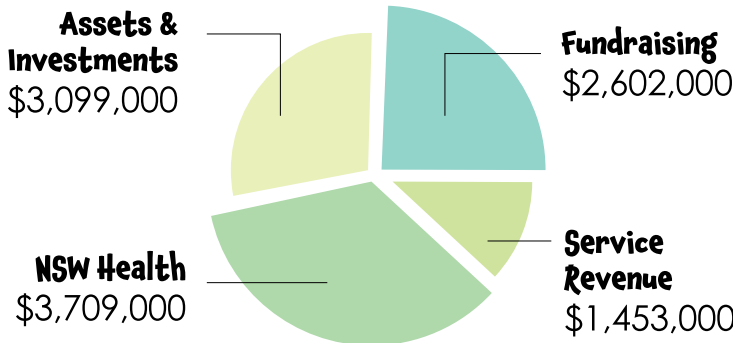
During the year our cost base increased by 8%. As previously noted, this is a result of a planned investment in our people and a higher non-cash depreciation charge.

The investment in extra staff enabled us to increase our Telecare service. We have also increased the investment in our Business Development Team to underwrite a new brand and fundraising strategy that will deliver the extra recurring income and the community support that is essential to our future.

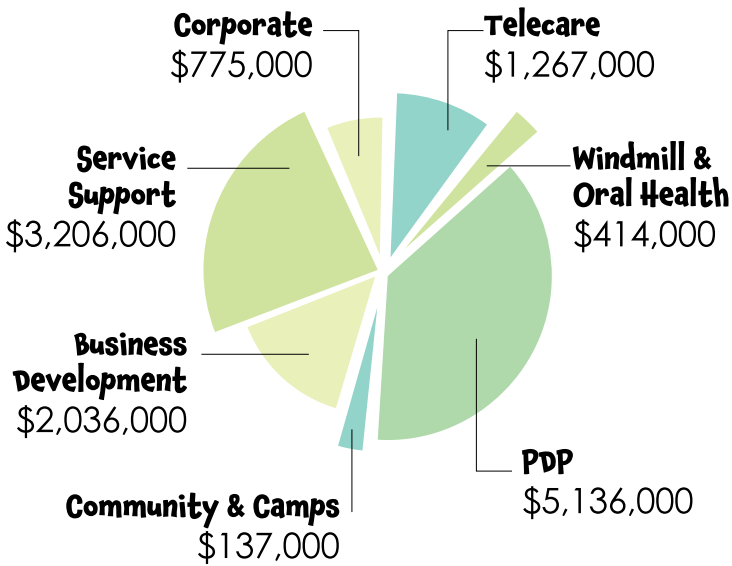
In summary, RFW has undertaken a substantial investment program to increase our capacity to serve more children through our financial expansion and the creation of contemporary facilities. Our asset base remains strong and will be a vital support in our efforts to raise regular income sufficient to meet our strategic target to serve 15,000 children and families in the years to come.

The financial summary included in this Annual Report is an extract from the annual financial report as prepared by our auditors Stewart Brown & Co.

Where the Money Comes From



Where the Money Goes



Statement of Revenue	2017	2016	2015
	\$	\$	\$
Grant for Children's Services from NSW Department of Health	3,709,400	3,618,870	3,530,691
Fundraising - Legacies & Bequests	772,511	325,509	1,298,448
Fundraising - Donations received from public	279,109	358,751	207,168
Fundraising - Contributions from Branches	308,425	362,171	344,096
Fundraising - Special purpose legacies	459,821	327,636	241,504
Fundraising - Other fundraising activities	782,248	697,468	248,913
Rebatable services	632,684	622,610	556,487
Service contracts	819,882	1,419,346	817,760
Income from investments/rentals	2,681,576	2,772,617	3,080,444
Sundry – Accommodation revenue	416,903	266,806	151,662
TOTAL	10,862,559	10,771,784	10,477,173

Statement of Expenses	2017	2016	2015
	\$	\$	\$
Employee costs	8,819,823	8,507,283	7,916,874
Sessional fees	446,844	394,338	374,575
Administration expenses (includes audit fees, consultants, insurance, legal, travel & accommodation, PPS)	1,139,004	910,629	826,340
Fundraising expenses	266,565	256,842	113,068
Repairs & maintenance expenses	180,623	186,907	181,598
Supplies, food & catering	206,531	222,793	180,719
Utilities	178,908	163,271	198,916
Other expenses (includes cleaning, equipment, IT, motor vehicle, marketing & comms)	750,367	829,820	866,699
Depreciation & amortisation	981,668	515,300	607,969
TOTAL	12,970,331	11,987,183	11,266,758
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	(2,107,772)	(1,215,399)	(789,585)

Corporate Governance

Royal Far West (ABN 378 219 708 19) is registered as a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital under the provisions of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012. All RFW Directors are Non-Executive Directors who receive no remuneration for their services.

The Board of Directors is responsible for setting the short and long-term strategy for Royal Far West. The powers and duties of the Directors are set out in the Constitution of Royal Far West, and at law.

The implementation of the strategy and the day-to-day management of the organisation is formally delegated by the Board to the Chief Executive Officer, and through her, to her Executive Management Team.

In early 2017, as part of its commitment to best business practice and quality standards, the Board agreed to commission an external review of its structure and performance. Boardroom Partners Inc. was selected to conduct this review and the results were shared and discussed with the Directors over a number of months. The membership, tenure and balance of the Board were three areas that attracted constructive feedback, with the Board accepting in full the recommended actions in the report.

As a consequence, a recruitment drive for new Directors was undertaken with the expectation that they will be appointed to the Board later in 2017, following a thorough search and interview process against clear performance criteria.

As Chair of the Nomination, Governance and Remuneration Committee and responsible for the implementation of the recommendations from the report, Mrs Joan Treweeke noted:

“Royal Far West Directors have warmly embraced this opportunity to reflect and improve the performance of the Board, as they have always done over the 94-year history of the organisation, and I am honoured to have carriage of this important function. We are very excited about adding to the strength of our Board with both business and health skills that the new Directors will bring.”

Company Secretary

Kevin Bone has more than 20 years of experience in commercial finance and operations and is a qualified Chartered Management Accountant.

Board Committees

The Board has established a number of Committees to assist the Board in its role and to allow detailed consideration of complex issues. In addition to Directors, membership of these Committees includes non-Directors with relevant skills. The outcomes of Committee meetings are presented at the subsequent Board meeting.

The Committees are:

- Investment Committee
- Nomination, Governance & Remuneration (NGR) Committee
- Audit, Risk and Compliance (ARC) Committee
- Redevelopment Steering Committee

Risk Management

RFW's risk management strategy incorporates all areas of the business, including internal and external risks. Each area has received a qualitative measure of likelihood, from Rare to Almost Certain, with a corresponding qualitative measure of consequence or impact, from Minimum to Extreme Risk, each with control and mitigation strategies. Reviews are regularly monitored by the ARC Committee and the Board to ensure RFW is adequately and proactively protected.

Board Members

The names and details of the Company's Directors in office during the financial year and until the date of this report are as follows. Directors were in office for this entire period unless otherwise stated.

Directors' Meetings 2016-17

A total of 8* meetings were held.

	Meetings attended	Eligible to attend
Mr G Richard Barron (Chair)	8	8
Mr Mark S Drummond (Vice Chair)	8	8
Mr Michael Gill (Treasurer)	7	8
Mr Ted Waters	7	8
Mr Peter J Veenstra OAM	2**	8
Mr Richard Hattersley	7	8
Mrs Joan Treweeke OAM	8	8

* Includes one extraordinary Board meeting
** Mr Veenstra was granted a leave of absence due to ill health



Mr G Richard Barron
Dip. Technology (Building), AIPM
Chairman
Investment Committee
Nominations, Governance & Remuneration Committee
Redevelopment Steering Committee



Mr Mark S Drummond
Vice Chairman
Audit, Risk & Compliance Committee
Nominations, Governance & Remuneration Committee



Mr Michael Gill
MAICD
Treasurer
Audit, Risk & Compliance Committee (Chair)
Redevelopment Steering Committee



Mr Ted Waters
BSc (Math), BA (Economics), Teaching Certificate, MBA
Redevelopment Steering Committee (Chair)
Investment Committee



Mr Peter J Veenstra OAM
B.A. (UNE) MAICD



Mr Richard H Hattersley
Investment Committee (Chair)
Redevelopment Steering Committee



Mrs Joan H Treweeke OAM
LLB (Melb)
Nominations, Governance & Remuneration Committee (Chair)
Audit, Risk & Compliance Committee

Accreditation

RFW is accredited by the Australian Council of Health Care Standards, under the EQUIPNational and NSW Disability Service Standards.

We also hold accreditation with the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) for Community Developmental Paediatrics and General Paediatrics Advanced Trainee Registrar Training Program.

Consumer Advisory Committee

Launched last year, our Consumer Advisory Committee comprises seven consumer representatives who currently access or have accessed our services. These members represent a wide selection of our families and their role is to guide and inform our service models and overall direction from the consumer perspective. Now firmly embedded in our organisation, their input is a much valued insight for our family-centred future.



Consumer Advisory Committee meeting



noBorders - Brayden Howie © Shutterstock.com

Thank You

We are indebted to the many people across government, business, the health and education sectors, our local communities and members of the public who understand our vision and mission and do their best to support children living in rural and remote communities in Australia. We give thanks to each and every one of you.

Our Patron

We are truly honoured to enjoy the patronage of His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd), Governor of New South Wales and his wife Mrs Hurley. Their wisdom and counsel is warmly appreciated and their support for our families is inspiring.

Our Government Supporters

One of our strategic priorities is to champion country children by building a strong evidence base on rural and remote child health and wellbeing that influences policy, and we cannot do this without support from the government. We are proud of our robust relationships with State and Federal governments, MPs and Departments, and we thank them for their time, sharing of opinions and helping us to strengthen the health and wellbeing of children living in rural and remote areas.

Particular thanks to our local Members and champions for RFW

The Hon Tony Abbott MP, Member for Warringah

Mr James Griffin MP, Member for Manly

Mr Mike Baird, former Member for Manly

Country Mayors

We are privileged to work closely with country Mayors, as they understand the challenges facing children and their families in their communities. Thank you in particular to Katrina Humphries, Chair of the Country Mayors Association, for your ongoing support, encouragement and advice when needed.

Industry and Peak Bodies

Community Child Health Unit, Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne

Early Childhood Australia

National Rural Health Alliance

Research Australia

Royal Flying Doctors Service

Rural Doctors Association of Australia

NSW Health

We thank NSW Health for its continued commitment to RFW's paediatric services, to ensure that developmentally vulnerable children in country areas are able to receive support and specialist intervention. NSW Health's commitment to children's health and rural health more broadly is amplified through our long-standing partnership in country NSW.

Academic Institutions

Australian Research Alliance for Children and Young People

Centre for Community Child Health

Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health

Charles Sturt University

CSIRO

Macquarie University

The George Institute for Global Health

University of Sydney

#health Partners

We partner with other health agencies to promote shared learning and thereby have greater capacity to address issues to support children and families in rural and remote communities of Australia. We thank these organisations for their enduring support:

Black Dog Institute

Central Queensland, Wide Bay, Sunshine Coast Primary Health Network

Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health

Contact Inc.

Gold Coast Primary Health Network

Griffith Aboriginal Medical Services

Hunter New England Local Health District

Maranguka Community Hub Bourke

Marninwarntikura Women's Resource Centre

Mid North Coast Local Health District

Murrin Bridge Aboriginal Health Service Incorporated

Murrumbidgee Local Health District

Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network

North and West Remote Health

South Eastern NSW Primary Health Network (Coordinaire)

Southern NSW Local Health District

Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service

Western NSW Local Health District

Major Supporters

RFW is fortunate to have the support of a number of organisations that provide funds, guidance, expertise and networks. Our sincere thanks for their commitment to helping country children thrive. In 2017 our major supporters include:

Akubra

ANZ

ASX Reuters

Auscott Ltd

Benevity Community

Bold and the Beautiful

BUPA

C.Ex Group

Charles Sturt University

ClubsNSW

Dual Australia

Fairfax Media

FDC Construction & Fitout

Glencore Assets Australia

Graincorp Limited

Inspire Management Consulting

K&L Gates Australia

Livexforum

Laing O'Rourke

Mercure Sydney

Nexia Australia

NSW Farmers

PSC Insurance Brokers

Qantas

R.M. Williams

Roche

Ronald McDonald House Charities

Scentre Group & Construction

Soliton Network Consulting

Sydney Business Park

Thinkingworks By Thinking Ergonomix

Wagga Wagga RSL



Thanks to our corporate volunteers NSW Farmers for joining with Santa at RFW

RFW Branches

Congratulations and warm thanks to our marvellous RFW Branches who have been giving tirelessly for decades. Our 2016/17 highest fundraisers were:
Coffs Harbour
Coonamble
Forbes
Port Macquarie
Trundle

Community Partners & Friends

Special thanks to:
Clontarf Foundation
Country Women's Association
Lionesses Club of Tamworth
Moorambilla Voices
Moree Plains Shire Council
MSM Milling
Mulgoa Quarries
NSW Parliamentary Lions Club
OzHarvest
Prime7



OzHarvest bringing nourishing food for our children and families

Redback Conferencing
Rotary Club of Wagga Wagga
Royal Agricultural Society (RAS)
Soliton Network Consulting
Starlight Children's Foundation
Super Retail Group
Susan Crawford
Temora Ex-Services Mem. Club
Towradgi Park Bowls & Rec.
Trundle Public School
Zonta Clubs of Sydney East, Berry and Port Macquarie
Zonta International District 24

Manly Community Partners & Friends

Avondale Golf Club Ladies
Belrose Rotary
Bold and the Beautiful
Brookvale Rockhouse
Goodwill Op Shop, Brookvale
Manly Beach Health Club
Manly Warringah Sea Eagles
Pat Taylor Swim School
Rotary Club of Manly
Sydney Fast Ferries
The Steyne Hotel

Bequests

Cater Charitable Trust Fund
Estate of the late Copland Harold Oscar Browne
Estate of the late Ann Eva Coughlan
Estate of the late Edith Hill
Estate of the late Erica Lowe
Estate of the late June Margaret Newham
Estate of the late Sophia Grace Parker and Annie Ethel Parker
Estate of the late Douglas Mackay Webb

Trusts & Foundations

Aussie Farmers Foundation
Bennett Foundation
CAGES Foundation
Campbell Edwards Trust
Darin Cooper Foundation
ERE Resch Trust
Glen Rocky Foundation
James N Kirby Foundation
Mary Alice Foundation
Newman's Own Foundation
Profield Foundation
Protrust Pty Ltd
Qantas Foundation
Rockefeller Philanthropy
RA Gale Foundation
Schwartz Foundations
Sargents Pies Charitable Foundation
The Rockpool Foundation
Yorke Family Foundation

Grants

Charlestown Bowling Club
City Tattersalls Club
ClubsNSW
Griffith Ex-Services Club
Griffith Leagues Club
Indigenous Advancement Strategy (Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet)
Orange Ex-Services' Club
Qantas Foundation
Rotary Club of Macksville
Toronto Workers Club
Wagga RSL Club

In the spotlight

Akubra

This year our iconic partner Akubra celebrated 140 years of Australian owned, Australian made heritage. Congratulations to Akubra, and many thanks to Akubra and the Keir family for their enduring and warm friendship and support of our cause.



(L-R) Stephen Keir (Akubra), Lindsay Cane, Nikki McLeod (Akubra), Mark Muller (R.M.Williams Outback)

Prime7

We are honoured to be a Community Partner of leading regional television broadcaster Prime7. Through Prime7 we gain valuable access into the homes of our most important audiences, the children and families, teachers, health workers and community organisation members living in the regional and rural areas in which we work. In addition to covering some of our events, Prime7 creates television commercials for us each year. This year's Ride for Country Kids promotions created broad awareness of our Wagga Wagga to Orange three-day Ride, and gave great exposure to the work that we do. Our Ambassador, Prime7 reporter Daniel Gibson, once again jumped on his bike to join the Ride, and also MC'ed our Gala Fundraiser. We truly are grateful for the support we receive from Prime7.



Prime7 reporter Sarina playing the bongo drums for a story with our children

Royal Agricultural Society (RAS)

Once again our children were invited to take part in the amazing annual Showbag Launch thanks to our good friends at the RAS. A very exciting day, the children were given an exclusive sneak peek at this year's showbags, and helped to choose the top 10 showbags of 2017. They met a range of well-known TV character mascots and were invited to choose their favourite showbags to take home and share with their siblings.

Thanks so much RAS – you saw by the smiles on the children's faces just how much they enjoyed their day.



Children having a blast at the RAS Annual Showbag Launch

(Endnotes)

- 1 NSW Ministry of Health data
- 2 Estimation from Australian Census (2009) and AEDC (2015)
- 3 NSW Ministry of Health data
- 4 AEDC 2015
- 5 NSW Ministry of Health data
- 6 Ibid
- 7 Australian Early Development Census, Definition of AEDC terms





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RoyalFarWest