



## Who we are

We are a young and very special charity solely focussed on Childhood Heart Disease (CHD)

HeartKids Australia works to:

- Support families who have a child with heart disease
- Reduce the incidence of Childhood Heart Disease
- Decrease the mortality rates for Childhood Heart Disease

We do this by:

- Employing Family Support Coordinators in each of the major children's hospitals throughout Australia
- Running Family and Teen activities
- Funding Research into CHD
- Providing equipment and facilities
- Assisting families with travel and accommodation needs
- Commissioning a White Paper into the needs of CHD from a clinical and community perspective
- Advocating the needs of CHD to Government

HeartKids is unique in that it is the only organisation in Australia solely focussed on all aspects of children's heart disease. We are a registered Health Charity and have full tax concession status from the ATO. We aim to offer support to HeartKids and to families of children with heart disease, be it congenital (born with) or acquired. We have also partnered with leading cardiologists and researchers and are working to provide funding for them to assist in reducing the incidence of CHD and to improve the mortality rates currently being experienced.

We started as voluntary group of parents and individuals dealing with and concerned about the day to day realities of raising and caring for children with cardiac conditions, and sometimes dealing with the loss of a child due to their congenital heart defect. We have grown to an organisation of some strength, with a presence in every state of Australia, as well as a National body – HeartKids Australia.

Our members wish to offer their support to other families who are in crisis, providing opportunities to share common anxieties and challenges. We arrange, where possible, to meet with other families affected by the impact of life with a child with a cardiac condition and to create a 'network of support' for all families.

Over the years, HeartKids, with the help of members, sponsors and friends, has been able to help out the children's hospitals and researchers by way of donations of money, equipment and research grants.

HeartKids has regional representatives who offer their time to arrange coffee mornings and special activities in order to support families with a child with CHD. Telephone support is also offered. Our aim in this area is to ensure that parents aren't struggling alone. Please contact HeartKids in your state for support or to join these groups.



### Donate to assist with Research, Support, Awareness, Advocacy

HeartKids is endorsed by the Australian Tax Office as a deductible gift recipient. If you would like to make a donation to HeartKids please [click here](#). Thank you. Donations made to HeartKids are tax deductible.



HeartKids produces a series of state based newsletters which update and inform our members on patient progress; special 'heart family' activities; government policy information of relevant, upcoming events and much much more. HeartKids newsletters keeps our geographically diverse membership aware and 'close'.

HeartKids can assist with information about your hospital stay, for example information on available accommodation, meals, and transport and parking and in some cases can assist families financially in these areas. We can also assist with information on the availability of certain hospital services such as social workers, occupational therapists, and speech pathologists.

Most valuable to our families during the crucial time of surgery are our Family Support coordinators. These coordinators are 'heart mums' and understand more than most what families are experiencing during the often tension filled hospital stays.

As well as offering support to families, HeartKids aims to increase awareness in the general community and corporate sector about the high incidence of congenital heart defects and its ongoing consequences. Please contact HeartKids in your state if you are visiting one of the children's hospitals, or if you would like some support.



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