

life's little treasures foundation
annual report

2019



message from our board chair



We remain fiercely committed to developing new ways to be Australia's leading support provider for families with premature and sick babies, and I am pleased to say we are really kicking goals. Our most recent Walk For Prems event smashed our 'stretch goal' of \$330,000 and raised \$391,000 across 12 locations. Walk for Prems showcases the strength of our Life's Little Treasures Foundation (LLTF) community and is our major fundraiser for the year.

Other key achievements for the year include:

- LLTF NICU Connections program expanded with and relaunched under the banner of 'NICU Food from the Heart'. Based on the premise that food brings people together, and that you can't look after others without looking after yourself. The program is currently in three forms - the NICU Dads nights provides dinner for dads in NICU as they visit their babies, the Brekkie Bar provides free breakfast bars in NICU parent rooms and our NICU Connections Morning tea events that are hosted in hospital and are facilitated by trained peer support volunteers.
- Moving to bigger and brighter premises that allows for our ongoing growth.
- Expansion into ten more hospitals and truly cementing ourselves as a national organisation.
- More than 4,500 gifts distributed nationally for Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day and Christmas, which reminds our immediate community that we are thinking of them.
- More than 10,000 tip sheets, and 4,000 Special Care Nursery Booklets and NICU Guiding Hand folders distributed.
- More than 50 families benefiting from the financial assistance program. This provides petrol and food vouchers to struggling families with babies in NICU or Special Care, and is particularly helpful for families who may be staying away from home during this time.
- More than 800 families supplied with free premature baby nappies through our online nappy program which is supported by Huggies.

But the success of LLTF is so much more than stats and facts. All our volunteers are so very appreciated, and the board is ensuring we are resourced to make it a rewarding and worthwhile experience with the new Volunteer Coordinator appointed, and Better Impact IT system to ensure best practice in volunteer management.

Shusannah Morris our CEO was also one of 25 deserving winners of Pro Bono Australia's annual Impact 25 Awards for 2018. The Award recognises those who advocate for the disadvantaged and whose actions embody the characteristics that fall under the pillars of 'innovation', 'influence', 'collaboration' and 'catalyst'. Shusannah is all that to us and even more – we can't thank her enough for what she does for us.

Seeing our partnerships strengthen. Merryn Csincsi, our Business Development Manager, has done a full-time job in just two days a week, her enthusiasm is clearly contagious, and it always amazes us at the opportunities she presents for us.

We have continued our partnerships with Baby Bunting, Britax, Medela, Earlybirds, and Huggies with great success. We have also welcomed Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate, which launched this year in the Australian market and is a natural extension for the Better Homes and Gardens brand.

We've seen the expansion of all our products and services provided by the foundation through the tireless and committed work of our Products and Services Manager Karen Peters.

With a bit more LLTF experience under my belt, I can confidently say the next 12 months will be as busy, if not busier than the last. We don't see a decline anytime soon for our services, and we know that our family-centred approach to care is key to our success.

None of the above could be achieved without the tireless work of our 75-plus quality volunteers, our amazing part-time staff that gave so much more than the hours they were paid, and our fearless CEO Shusannah. We are all so grateful for your time, commitment, expertise and passion.

Thank you to everyone who has been involved with Life's Little Treasures Foundation, from fellow board members, management, volunteers, staff, supporters and suppliers to our families and friends who have been generous in their time and energy to support this cause.

I look forward to what 2020 has to bring.

Chriss Mannix (Chair – LLTF)

a bit about us

Life's Little Treasures Foundation (LLTF) is Australia's leading charity dedicated to providing comprehensive information and support to families with a premature or sick baby. We proudly help give these children the best possible start in life and take care of the wellbeing of the whole family.

Now 14 years old, Life's Little Treasures Foundation is working across Australia, supporting families through pregnancy, birth and into the early years of childhood. We bring together the expertise and guidance of leading health professionals, social workers, researchers and trained volunteers to ease the parenting journey, reduce trauma and empower families.

our mission

Provide information, support and understanding to families of premature and sick babies to help achieve better outcomes for their children.

Work with families, health professionals and research experts to develop and provide resources to educate and empower families.

Connect families through our extensive support network including a 24 hour helpline, social networks, events and treasure time groups.

Understanding the journey and offering friendship and support to those following in our footsteps and utilising our peer based community to deliver this.

who we exist for

Families needing information

All families in NICU or SCN

Grandparents

Families needing emotional support

Families away from home

Mothers who give birth pre term or with a sick baby

Families needing ongoing support (up to school age)

Families needing financial support



Pregnant mothers at high risk of giving birth pre term

Families having to travel long distances to and from hospital

The facts about prematurity in Australia:

48,000+

babies are admitted to neonatal intensive or special care nurseries every year.

27,000

of these babies are born premature (prior to 37wks gestation). Premature birth is the number one cause of neo natal death.

6% of babies born are of low weight; under 2500 grams

Around 1,300 of these weigh less than 1kg

9% of babies are born prematurely every year

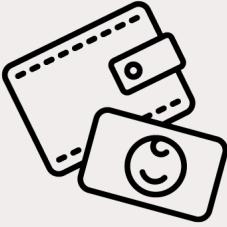
Prematurity doesn't discriminate and there are many reasons for it

1 in every 5 babies born require resuscitation at birth

Babies born prematurely often suffer ongoing health complications, some severe

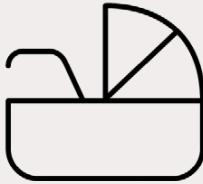






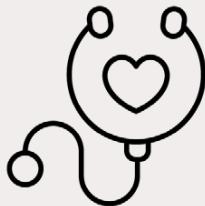
Financial support in a time of crisis

52 families provided financial support alleviating extra stress with transport, parking and accommodation costs



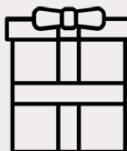
Providing prem infant capsules to families in need

Thanks to RACV Community Foundation & Britax we were able to alleviate a financial stress and provide 24 families with a capsule suitable for their premature infant



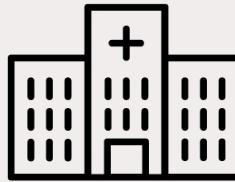
Supporting families through education

Partnered with the Murdoch Children's Institute providing informative webinars to families and NIDCAP to develop programs and raise awareness of the importance of neurodevelopmental care, education and support for families and health professionals



Providing joy in a time of need

Delivered 4,500 gifts, providing love and support to families at Christmas, Easter, Fathers Day & Mothers Day. Thanks to Angel Gowns, Ladelle, TOMY, Sewing for Charity Australia and KOGO



Supporting more families in more hospitals

128 partner hospitals nationally. Working with more hospitals than ever before providing FREE resources for families



Assisting families and uncertainty

4,000 Special Care Nursing Hand Folders distributed to families in an unfamiliar and often stressful environment. These resources provide comprehensive information about special care nursing.



Helping families and friends feel informed

More than 10,000 Tip Sheets distributed, providing informative tips for Dads, Grandparents, Friends and Family

2018



SUPPORTED OVER 100 HOSPITALS



Uplifting and supporting families during stress

Provided hundreds of families with support. Packed full of love and care, the demand for these packages is increasing. With your help we will be able to pack more than ever before.

ies in a time of fear
y

Nursery Booklets & NICU Guiding

ted. Families are thrown into
n terrifying world. These vital
prehensive information & support

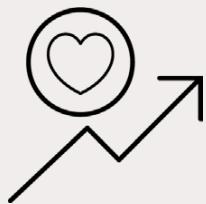
-2019



R 15,000 FAMILIES

l educating families
sful times

of Precious Prem Packs to
ll of information and gifts,
acks always exceeds our
citing re-launch in 2019 means
provide more families with packs



Support services increased by more than 250%

More families supported in-hospital through morning teas, Treasure Time Groups and the NICU Food from the Heart program than ever before



Easing the stress of getting hard to find prem nappies

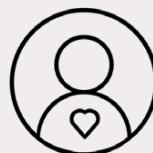
More than 800 families supplied with free Huggies nappies. Often difficult to source, this program thanks to Huggies provides free nappies suitable for premature babies.



Sunday 28th October
www.walkforprems.org.au

Community building through fundraising

More people than ever before are touched by premature birth rates and this was reflected by the response to Walk for Prems 2018. The Walk raised a record breaking \$391,000 and was supported by Baby Bunting, Medela, Huggies, Britax, Earlybirds, Web Intelligenz, Cold Fusion, Fly Pelican, Oricom & Balance Water



Partnered with Lifeline to train our passionate volunteers

25 peer support volunteers trained who bring experience, understanding & support to families. 10 extra pairs of hands to help with administration for many of the products and services we provide



life's little treasures
foundation

Supporting Families of Premature & Sick Babies

major partner

Baby Bunting

Life's Little Treasures Foundation is incredibly proud to call Baby Bunting a Major Corporate Partner. Since 2015, the passionate team at Baby Bunting has been with us every step of the way - offering support, funding our Special Care Nursery booklet, actively taking part in volunteering days and helping us raise awareness about premature and sick babies throughout Australia.

As Presenting Partner of the Walk for Prems, Baby Bunting has been instrumental in this event's success – with each year being bigger than the last. Baby Bunting understands the needs of families and the importance of specialised support. This understanding and generosity gives the partnership a unique synergy, allowing Life's Little Treasures Foundation to support more families in more ways than ever before.

Baby Bunting's core purpose is to support new and expectant parents through the journey of parenthood. Life's Little Treasures is dedicated to providing support, friendship and information to families of premature or sick babies. Therefore there is a very natural fit for a partnership like ours. LLTF provides an amazing service to parents going through a worrying time and Baby Bunting team members feel very passionate about being involved to help make a difference to all new parents, in particular assisting those who have a more difficult start.



“We’d like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Baby Bunting for its extraordinary support both for the Walk for Prems and as a Major Corporate Partner. There are so many ways in which we can engage and work together to help the Foundation provide its critical products and services. Their support will enable us to assist so many more families, it truly is a wonderful partnership, one we are both very proud of. Together, we will most certainly make a difference!”

Shusannah Morris Co-Founder / CEO LLTF

“I am proud to be the CEO of a company that contributes to and is part of a foundation supporting families enduring the difficult and life-changing experience of having a premature or sick baby – a cause very close to our hearts at Baby Bunting. We look forward to the future ahead and continue to encourage everyone to show their ongoing support for the wonderful work that the Life’s Little Treasures Foundation undertakes. Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.”

Matt Spencer CEO Baby Bunting

walk for prems

On Sunday 28th October 2018 families across Australia walked together in support of the 48,000 premature or sick babies born in Australia every year .

More people than ever before are touched by premature birth rates and this was reflected by the response to Walk for Prems 2018.

At the beginning of each Walk for Prems event, participants pause to show their respect for the families whose babies have sadly passed away. Life's Little Treasures Foundation honours their babies' memory with the ceremonial release of white doves by a family that has lost a child or a ceremonial bubble ceremony in the regional settings.



The Walk raised a record breaking \$391,000 and was supported by Baby Bunting, Medela, Huggies, Britax, Earlybirds, Web Intelligenz, Cold Fusion, Fly Pelican, Oricom & Balance Water



A Message from Jenna, Sean and Miss Olivia

I just wanted to say thank you for your support over the past 3 months at Monash Children's Hospital. NICU is a place of the highest highs and the lowest of lows; no one can begin to prepare you for the experience and family and friends can't comprehend the debilitating anxiety that comes with having an extreme premature baby. It leaves you in a very isolated, exhausting and frankly, downright scary place when you aren't sure if your baby will make it through the night.

I reluctantly went to the first Little Treasures Morning Tea - telling people I had a baby at 25 weeks was hard as it came with so many questions that I just didn't want to answer, but I am so glad that the foundation and its volunteers gave their time and I am beyond grateful for having experienced the support that the group offers. Not only did the Volunteers offer a friendly ear, they shared stories and experiences that were so relatable, experiences that gave me hope. Not many people will understand what it's like to spend 16 weeks in a hospital chair, hoping your child has a better 24 hours than the last- it's all consuming because you live in that moment on repeat, day after day. Hearing stories through the foundation gave me the ability to see beyond the monitors, the breathing support and all the tubes and imagine that homecoming that I had been craving for months. From that point forward I loved attending the Morning Tea's and being able to let other parents who were in my position know that it does get better, even if at times it feels like things are getting worse.

Well this week, for my birthday I got the best present in the world – after 108 days Miss Olivia got to come home. I can't explain how incredible it was to put her in the pram and wheel her out into the big wide world beyond the hospital doors. Being home has now given me the chance to reflect on all the things and people that helped me survive and I would like to personally thank Maggie and Lisa for being there for me in a way I will never be able to repay them for. As for the foundation, keep doing what you are doing – the resource material is fantastic, as are the meet and greet morning teas. Please also thank the sponsors of the programs because I know without them you wouldn't be able to have the same reach as what you currently do – this includes supplying morning tea, providing beautiful gifts and access to additional support such as prem packs and the Huggies nappy program.

Thank you so much for being there to lift me up when I needed it.





supporting partners



THE PONDS AND BELLA VISTA



Depak Mishra, Charles Tarbey (BHGRE Chairman), and Merryn Csincsi, LLTF

Life's Little Treasures Foundation is so thrilled and proud to announce that Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate – The Ponds and Bella Vista is a Major Corporate Sponsor of LLTF. This exciting new sponsorship will help LLTF extend the reach of crucial existing programs whilst raising much needed awareness about prematurity in Australia. We take this opportunity to welcome Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate to our team of amazing sponsors and thank you for your incredible support. We are so happy to be working with you.

"Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate – The Ponds & Bella Vista are delighted to be a Major Corporate Sponsor of the Life's Little Treasures Foundation. We are extremely proud to collaborate with a Foundation who understands the importance of supporting and educating families with premature or sick babies and helping them through their journey. As a brand, Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate The Ponds and Bella Vista aims to become a relevant and meaningful part of consumers' lives for all things related to their home, and with our consumer reach, we hope to promote the fantastic work of Life's Little Treasures Foundation and raise awareness of prematurity across Australia, with the hope that it can lead to better outcomes for premature and sick babies and their families"

Saeshen Attapallil
Licensee in Charge

supporting partners



Life's Little Treasures Foundation Nappy Program

Proudly Sponsored by
HUGGIES® Nappies



In October, 2017, LLTF was very proud to make the exciting announcement that Huggies had committed to being a partner. Huggies is a household name, trusted and world renowned for its high quality nappies. Its large range includes several options for premature babies, including the Nano Premmie Nappy which was launched in 2017.

"We're delighted that our Huggies brand is supporting Life's Little Treasures Foundation in their important work helping families with premature or sick babies. We believe that every baby should be hugged and by working together with Life's Little Treasures Foundation, we can help ensure that even the tiniest and most vulnerable babies will get the hugs and ongoing support they need to thrive."

Rahul Asthana

Marketing Director Kimberly-Clark Australia.

Huggies is the Major Sponsor of the Life's Little Treasures Foundation Nappy Program. This wonderful initiative allows new parents of premature or sick babies to register to receive either a free packet of premature or newborn Huggies nappies. Since being launched in May, 2018, Huggies has supplied more than 800 packs of nappies to families within the LLTF community.

LLTF looks forward to continuing to work with Huggies to support families of premature and sick babies.

supporting partners



Medela has partnered with Life's Little Treasures Foundation since 2014 and is still a strong supporter. As a Major Sponsor of the 2018 Walk for Prems and sponsor of an informative social media program, Medela continues to enable LLTF to support families throughout Australia. Medela also provides discount vouchers and breast pads for inclusion in our Precious Prem Packs.



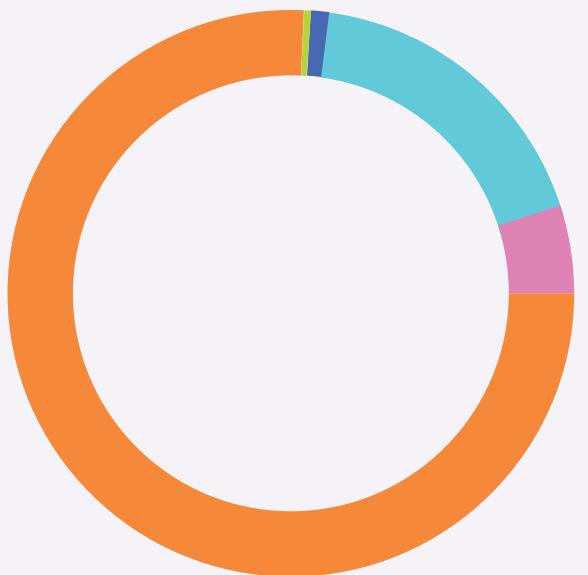
As a Major Sponsor of the Walk for Prems for the 3rd year running, Britax once again demonstrated its commitment to LLTF and our community. Britax also donated incredible prizes including Flexx Strollers and Unity Car Britax continues to donate Unity Inserts for our Precious Prem Packs.



financials

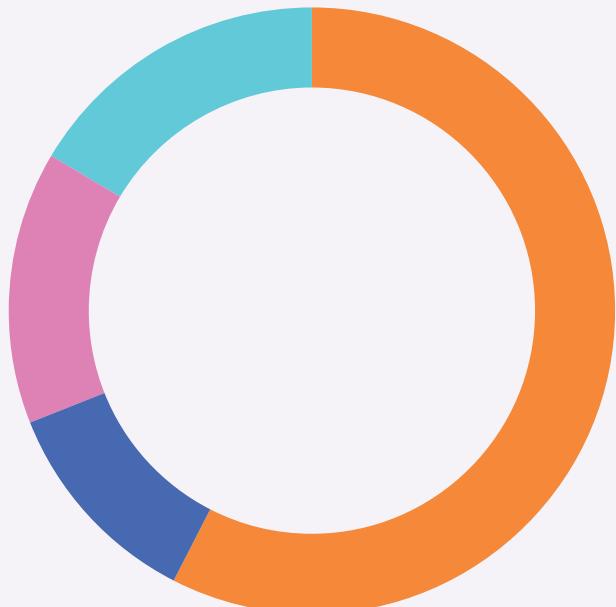
Income

\$2,564		Interest Income
\$ 5,000		Government
\$ 47,759		Philanthropic Trusts and Foundation
\$ 97,500		Corporate
\$524,339		Community Events inc. donations



Expenses

\$ 68,059		Fundraising Costs
\$ 85,709		Operating Costs
\$ 98,169		Walk for Prem Costs
\$ 340,874		Support & Service Delivery



financials

Balance Sheet

As of June 2019

Assets		
Current Assets	\$376,878.66	
Other Assets	(\$11,820.00)	
Property & Equipment	\$2,993.83	
Total Assets		\$368,052.49
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities	\$36,683.78	
Total Liabilities		\$36,683.78
Net Assets		\$331,368.71
Equity		
Directors Capital	\$60.00	
Retained Earnings	\$244,449.43	
Current Year Surplus/Deficit	\$84,351.01	
Historical Balancing	\$2,508.27	
Total Equity		\$331,368.71



thank you

Thank you to all our dedicated volunteers, supporters and partners. Without you we could not provide the services and support to those who need it most. From the entire team at life's little treasures foundation – thank you.

Shusannah Morris
CEO

