

some national facts

We've developed this snapshot of statistics to provide some context as to what happens in our children's hospitals:

- Together CHFA hospital partners treat or admit over 1 million children each year;
- On average, every day, over 300 children are admitted to our children's hospitals and 3,000 further occasions of service or care are delivered;
- On average every day in Australia five children and babies die;
- The most common causes of death in children under the age of 14 are accidents and cancer;
- Children today face an unprecedented crisis. Due to lifestyle diseases and obesity this may be the first generation with an expected life span shorter than that of their parents;
- Each year, CHFA Hospitals newly diagnose over 500 children with cancer. Over 2,200 children (or 80% of Australian children who have cancer) are treated by CHFA hospitals;
- 20 years ago the survival rate for children with the most common form of leukaemia was 20%. Today, thanks to research, the survival rate is 80%;
- Every week three Australian children die of cancer;
- Each year there are more than 10,000 residential fires in Australia. Two out of three children killed in house fires are under the age of five;
- Each year burns are responsible for 20-25 child deaths, 600 child admissions to hospital and 6,000 child presentations to emergency centres;
- Asthma is Australia's most widespread chronic (long term and persistent) health problem. It affects over 2 million Australians including 1 in 4 children. At present the cause of asthma is not known and there is no cure;
- By the age of two, a staggering 95% of all children will have had a respiratory illness;
- Every year, hundreds of babies are admitted to hospital with unidentifiable infectious respiratory illnesses;
- Every 18 hours, a child is born with cerebral palsy in Australia. Cerebral palsy is a complex and often highly debilitating condition that can place a huge strain on the health system, families and most of all, patients. The costs associated with CP across a lifetime are in excess of \$2 million per child;

- Cystic Fibrosis is the most common, life-threatening genetic condition affecting 1 in every 2,500 babies. Twenty years ago, children with CF did not live to see their teenage years, however through research, improved treatments and specially-formulated diets, children with CF are living longer. The average lifespan for a person with CF is now 30 years of age. With further research, this could extend to 40 or 50 years of age;
- Each year foundations provide over \$60 million in research, equipment and services. Some of our hospitals achievements derived through this funding include:
 - RCH Foundation's Burns Research Group recently reached a milestone in their quest to achieve scarless wound healing for young burns patients. Through their ongoing Scar Wars project, the research team has discovered what they believe to be the "ideal protein" to help skin heal with minimal scarring;
 - Telepaediatric Medical Service to treat children in rural and remote areas without the need for children to leave their home towns;
 - Critical one hour test to diagnose meningococcal bacteria;
 - The Megazone – over \$100,000 contributed each year to provide staff and equipment. Built to "heal through happiness" and provide play areas to assist the development needs of patients;
 - Gene Therapy research into a cure for Cystic Fibrosis.
- Over 2000 volunteers work in the hospitals helping to make hospital visits less stressful for parents and children. Without volunteers many significant patient orientated services would not exist.