

# Fill our piggy banks

**To help children with  
life-limiting conditions  
and their families**



**2021-22 Participation Pack**

Supporting children and families in your local community

# Get involved in the Very Special Kids Piggy Bank Appeal

Very Special Kids' five giant piggy banks – Pete, Princess, Patrick, Penelope and Pepi – are iconic. For over two decades they have travelled around Victoria helping us raise funds for children with life-limiting conditions and their families.

COVID-19 has impacted many of these families. They have dealt with heightened levels of uncertainty, anxiety and social isolation during the

multiple lockdowns and restrictions, all while caring for a seriously-ill child or facing their grief.

Despite these challenges the community has continued to support Very Special Kids, helping us continue to provide essential services to children and families across Victoria.

This year is the 24th annual Piggy Bank Appeal, and we need your support more than ever. Help us fill our piggy banks!

## Meet the Rawson family

Everley Rawson was diagnosed with Kabuki syndrome at just ten months old. It's a rare multisystem disorder requiring specialised care and numerous surgeries and interventions. Initially, mum Jo and dad Rick were told little Everley may not walk or talk.

She has confounded those expectations. "I had tears," said Jo, when Everley took her first steps aided by a walking frame – but with parents who need to work, older sister Mila at primary school and little brother Arlo in day care, the pressures on the family are immense.

That's why the Rawson family treasures the support of Very Special Kids.

"It's organisations like Very Special Kids that have helped us enormously," says Rick. "You sort of think to yourself, where we would be had these guys not been involved?"

Especially valued is the help provided by two of our wonderful family support volunteers, Simone and Coral. Mila enjoys going on outings with Simone, who is "loved and adored" according to Jo, while Coral visits the Rawson home weekly to look after young Arlo and give his mum a much-needed break.

Jo also welcomes the opportunity to mix with other families in similar situations at the coffee mornings, while Mila loves meeting and playing with other kids in the Sibling Program.

**"Please donate. It's an amazing cause. It's incredible to know that there are people out there giving up their time with their family to come and spend time with our family. That's pretty special," said Jo.**





**There are many ways that your business can fundraise for the Piggy Bank Appeal and help Very Special Kids care for children with life-limiting conditions. Here are a few ideas:**

### **Host your own Piggy Trail Stop**

When restrictions allow, we would love for you to host your own fundraising event. Run a raffle, colouring competition, piggy treasure hunt, trivia competition or golf day. Send us your photos - we'd love to see what you do!

If you can raise \$2,500 we will bring one of the iconic giant piggy trailers to visit your business (subject to availability).

### **Sell piggy merchandise**

Display a piggy merchandise box full of bright colourful products on a sale-or-return basis. The full merchandise range is available to order separately in addition to the merchandise box.

Orders can be placed using the merchandise order form [here](#).

### **Collect donations with your very own counter pig or collection unit**

Display a collection unit on your counter or in your lunch room to collect donations. No cash? No problem! Use a mobile phone to scan the QR code on the collection unit or poster to make an online donation.



To get involved, please call (03) 9804 6228, email [events@vsk.org.au](mailto:events@vsk.org.au) or visit [vsk.org.au](http://vsk.org.au)



# Caring for children and families in your local community

**Over 35 years ago, an extraordinary woman had a vision.**

After meeting two families who had supported each other whilst caring for their children who had died, Sister Margaret Noone worked with the families to identify that additional support was needed for families going through similar situations.

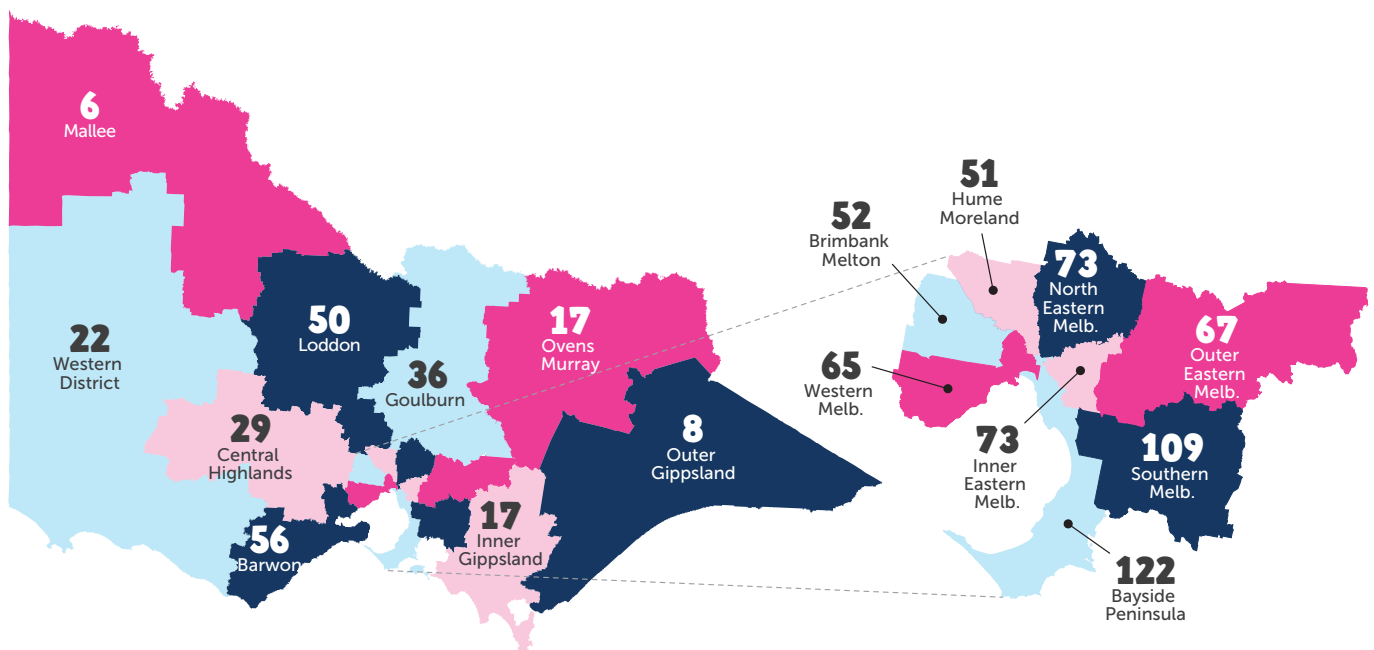
The first chapter of her vision became a reality in 1985 when she introduced family-centred paediatric palliative care to Australia and Very Special Kids was established. In 1996, the Very Special Kids Hospice

was built, which was the first in Australia and is still the only children's hospice in Victoria.

Today, Very Special Kids has become a recognised leader in children's paediatric palliative care in Australia. We continue to improve the quality of life for children with a life-limiting condition and their families, offering a range of support services during all stages of the family's journey.

As a predominantly self-funded organisation, we rely on generosity from the community to help us provide essential free-of-charge services to families across Victoria.

## We support children and families across Victoria



### Partners



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