



Since 2024, the Good Friday Appeal - in partnership with The Royal Children's Hospital - has expanded its impact beyond metropolitan Melbourne by directing dedicated funding to paediatric services in regional Victoria. This commitment helps children and families access high-quality care closer to home, while strengthening the capacity of regional hospitals to deliver specialised paediatric services and extend the reach of world-class RCH expertise across the state.

## FUNDING TO DATE

**More than \$8.5 million in funding** has been allocated to regional Victoria over three years, highlighting the Good Friday Appeal and The Royal Children's Hospital's commitment to every child.

- 2026: \$3 million to support more than 30 regional health services.
- 2025: \$3 million allocated to 41 regional hospitals
- 2024: \$2.5 million allocated to 6 major regional health services

## THE IMPACT

- Children receiving care closer to home
- Reduced travel and disruption for regional families
- Stronger regional health services with improved paediatric capability
- Care tailored to the unique needs of local communities

## WHAT THIS FUNDING SUPPORTS

- Lifesaving neonatal and paediatric equipment
- Specialised diagnostic and treatment technology
- Clinical training, scholarships and workforce development
- Regional paediatric clinics and Hospital in the Home programs
- Child-friendly spaces that support recovery and wellbeing

## REGIONS

- Barwon South West, Gippsland, Hume, Grampians and Loddon Mallee.
- There is an equal level of funding of \$600,000 provided to the five regions.

*As the Good Friday Appeal marks 95 years of community support, sick children and their families across regional Victoria and southern New South Wales will continue to access world-class care closer to home, thanks to the generosity of Victorians.*

# 95 YEARS FOR THE love OF OUR KIDS



## REGIONAL FUNDING IMPACT

A key goal of the RCH is to create a truly integrated paediatric service, where health services across Victoria and beyond learn from each other and share expertise and knowledge. This funding is helping the RCH to achieve just that.

This regional funding plays a critical role in building the capability and capacity of health services across the state. The aim is to increase the number of children and young people who can receive high quality care closer to their home, making the pathway to specialist care easier. From nursing scholarships to capital expenditure, this investment will go some way to strengthening these services and their invaluable work delivering health care to children, young people, and families living in regional and rural Victoria.

Parkville is a long way from Penshurst or Paynesville, and the objective is for every child and family to receive the best possible care regardless of where they live.

This regional funding also provides an opportunity for the Good Friday Appeal to acknowledge regional communities for their incredible fundraising efforts over the years and contribute to the RCH's goal of a truly integrated paediatric service system.

## BRINGING CARE CLOSER TO HOME

When Ivy was born in regional Victoria, she faced the fight of her life in her very first moments. Born not breathing and diagnosed with multiple life-threatening conditions, Ivy needed urgent specialist care that wasn't available close to home. Her parents, Tori and Ash, were taken far from their routines, support networks and familiar comforts just to be by her side at The Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne. The emotional strain of distance made an already terrifying situation even harder - but knowing Ivy was receiving world-class care gave them strength when they felt completely powerless.

For families like Ivy's, regional funding matters. It means world-class care and critical support can be brought closer to home, reducing the stress of long travel and separation from loved ones when every minute counts. It means better equipment, more training for local staff, and stronger regional health services so children don't always have to leave their communities to get the treatment they desperately need. Your support ensures that kids across regional Victoria and southern NSW - like Ivy - get the care, compassion and hope they deserve, right where their families live.

Pictured above: Baby Tori from Ballarat.

# 2026 Regional Funding

Making a difference for Kids across Victorian and Southern NSW

This funding will help families across Victoria and southern New South Wales by bringing specialist care closer to home, reducing travel times, and improving medical outcomes for children and young people. It increases access to high-quality care, supporting the RCH to extend its expertise beyond the hospital walls and into regional communities.

By strengthening local health services and making the pathway to specialist care easier, this important investment ensures that children across the state can receive the treatment they need, when and where they need it, giving families greater peace of mind and hope for the future.



## Some of the Projects to be funded:

### Barwon South West

- New specialist equipment and high-acuity improvements at Barwon Women's and Children's.
- Workforce development, nursing scholarships, and staff training programs.
- Enhanced neonatal equipment to care for sick newborns locally.

### Loddon Mallee

- Allied Health-led triage service and post-diagnosis navigator in Bendigo.
- Expanded paediatric clinic with care coordinator and child psychologist in Castlemaine.
- Family-friendly maternity and play spaces in Echuca.
- Paediatric Outreach Hub in Mildura for integrated local services.
- Telehealth and multidisciplinary paediatric services in Swan Hill.

### Hume

- Expanded paediatric outpatient services in Albury Wodonga, including telehealth and new clinics.
- New neonatal and maternity equipment, plus staff training in Wangaratta.
- Paediatric emergency training, vein finders, and Nurse Practitioner support in Goulburn Valley.

### Grampians

- Patient family accommodation at regional hospital facilities.
- Allied Health equipment, training, and remote care resources.
- Cutting-edge equipment for neonatal and paediatric procedures.
- Multidisciplinary paediatric skills uplift training programs.

### Gippsland

- Neonatal skills training in Sale, including simulation and resuscitation courses.
- New regional multidisciplinary eating disorder clinic.
- Telehealth stations and mobile consultation equipment for emergencies.
- Culturally safe resources for Aboriginal children and families.
- ENT surgery improvements and paediatric partnership programs linking local services with Melbourne hospitals.