

Bear Cottage Facts & Figures

As the only children's hospice in NSW, Bear Cottage aims to ensure that every child and their family enjoys the time they have together to the fullest.



But we can't do this on our own.

It costs \$2.3 million to operate Bear Cottage each year, and families do not pay when they stay with us. This means that we rely solely on the generosity of the community to keep our doors open – we rely on people just like you.

To give you an idea of how your donation would make a difference to Bear Cottage...

\$15 would set up a gastrostomy tube to feed a child. This will feed a child who does not have the ability to swallow.

\$30 will pay for daily medication for an end of life patient to assist with pain management and comfort in their final stages.

\$50 will pay for a one on one music therapy session with a child. Music is the universal language and for many of our patients, the way they communicate and express emotion.

\$150 would fund a family day out to Taronga Zoo or Ocean World, an opportunity rarely experienced by Bear Cottage families.

\$6,500 would fund a family of four to stay at Bear Cottage for one week. This will include accommodation for the entire family, 24-hour nursing care, play and music therapy each day, all meals prepared by our resident chef, and all the cleaning, washing and general every duties taken care of by our house keepers.

\$42,000 would fund a week's camp for 6 boys living with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. Bear Cottage holds several camps a year aimed at children, parents & families living with similar conditions or travelling similar journeys. During the camps the children receive respite care and participate in a range of activities that have been developed with their abilities in mind. They are able to form friendships with peers who are travelling a similar path which is particularly important for our teenage patients.

\$50,000 will fund an assistant in nursing to be specially trained for one year. Nursing students do not receive the necessary specialised training in paediatric palliative care at University so it is imperative that they gain the experience through on the job training within a specialist facility with the very best teachers. Our registered paediatric palliative care nurses - our teachers - are the backbone of Bear Cottage and we must ensure their skills and knowledge are passed on to the next generation of specialised paediatric palliative care nurses.

\$80,000 would pay for a full time play therapist. The United Nations states it is the right of any child to play, regardless of their condition. "Play" has been proven to help children make sense of their condition and situation which is hugely important for them and can also provide opportunities for families to create lasting memories together. Play does not stop at the weekends; it needs to be available seven days a week.

\$100,000 will pay for a specialised paediatric palliative care nurse for one year. Isolated from hospitals and with the absence of medical staff, it is imperative that the Bear Cottage nurses be experienced in the care & aware of the very high needs of the children that visit Bear Cottage. The nurses are responsible for the overall holistic care of the child and their family and are often called upon to provide counselling and support to the family unit in conjunction with ensuring that their medical needs are taken care of.