



Providing essential support to children with cancer (0-18) and their families has been Redkite's focus for over 35 years. We're here throughout the whole cancer journey, from the moment of diagnosis throughout treatment and beyond.

key facts

Today



40,000

in Australia, three families will hear the words "your child has cancer".

No matter where they are, with your help Redkite is here for them.

Treatment can last for weeks, months or years. We're there with support for as long as it takes.

Today more than 40,000 people are living with the effects of childhood cancer.

emotional support and counselling

A diagnosis of cancer is a crisis that impacts every aspect of life. Our skilled and caring social workers provide information, support and professional counselling not just for children facing cancer, but for their families and caregivers too. This includes siblings and grandparents. They are available face to face and by phone, email and video, enabling us to reach families who need us including those who are remote or who prefer not to travel.

financial assistance

Cancer is expensive, often bringing extra financial demands at a time when parents often must stop work, and lose income to be at their child's bedside. Financial assistance helps with the must-haves including food, electricity, accommodation and travel expenses.

COVID-19 crisis and families facing childhood cancer

families are telling us they are facing even more challenges on top of their child's cancer



Eliza, mum of 3 year-old Harper who has Leukaemia

FEAR OF INFECTION

"Even without this crisis, we are looking after a child who is immunosuppressed, which means that what could be a MILD VIRUS to you, is SERIOUSLY LIFE THREATENING to them."

we've never seen such an increase in need for our services

 **32%**
increase in support sessions

Redkite has seen almost a third increase in support sessions delivered to families*.

 **15%**
increase in financial assistance

We've also seen an increase in the amount of financial assistance provided to families*.

*compared to March 2019

Jodi and Trystan's Story

Living in regional Tasmania, Jodi's story of her son Trystan's treatment for acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL) involves long periods away from home, separated from her four other children. Watch their Video online [HERE](#).

When Jodi was told that her three-year old son, Trystan, had cancer, she was shattered. Only a few years previously, she'd lost his dad, Darren, also to cancer. Jodi thought now she was going to lose Trystan too.

Trystan had been unwell for several weeks, but Jodi thought it was just a virus. One day, tiny pin-pricks and bruises appeared on Trystan's body. She took him to the doctor, who did a blood test straight away. A few hours later, the doctor told her to pack an overnight bag and call an ambulance. Trystan had leukaemia, cancer of the white blood cells.

Without warning, Jodi and Trystan were flown to their capital city – three and a half hours away from their rural home. Jodi has five children, and her eldest daughter had to return from university to care for her three younger siblings. None of them were at all prepared. Jodi was in shock. She didn't know how to explain it to Trystan, let alone her other children. Jodi was told they'd be in hospital for two to six weeks, but Trystan wasn't responding to treatment.

They didn't go home for 12 months. None of Jodie's other children knew when their mum was going to return home.

"It was a very overwhelming and lonely time, but Redkite was there for me and my family."

On that first day in hospital, Jodi was given a Redkite Red Bag. She was overwhelmed by how thoughtful and useful it was. It soon became her security blanket, and Jodi still carries the bag to hospital now for Trystan's check-ups. Redkite has also supported Jodi by helping pay essential bills.

"Redkite's financial assistance really kept us afloat while I was supporting two households – one at home, one at hospital."

Jodi recalls, "there were a lot of extra expenses that you just don't even think about. I can't imagine how much harder it must be to face your child's cancer without Redkite."

When Jodi was told Trystan had responded to treatment, it was a huge moment. The family is together again and Trystan has finished his treatment.

Redkite's support is still available for them as they adjust to life post-cancer.



Trystan with his Mum, Jodi



Trystan at school