



SNAPSHOT REPORT

Bringing Happiness to People Living With a Disability



What Ability Foundation exists to create opportunities for people living with disability and their families to experience connection, joy and a genuine sense of belonging.

We do this by unlocking access to everything from movies, bowling and zoo visits to major sporting events and money-can't-buy experiences, removing the financial and social barriers that too often stand in the way of full participation in community life.

Every experience is provided free to families*, made possible through the generosity of our corporate partners, philanthropic donors, government and individual supporters who believe everyone deserves the opportunity to belong.

**Some experiences are subject to a booking fee*

Our goal: one million experiences by 2035.

	Experiences	Families	Highlights
FY26	12,990 Unlocked	950+ Families Supported	Launch of Corporate Volunteering, Inclusive Events, and renewal of our Inclusion Workshop with Jack McCutcheon
Since 2021	27,000+ Unlocked	1,980+ Families Supported	Partnerships with AusGP, FunLab, Cushman & Wakefield, Venues West and many more



**HELPING BRING HAPPINESS TO PEOPLE
LIVING WITH A DISABILITY**

THE CHALLENGE



People living with disability earn a median of **\$575** per week, compared to **\$1,055** per week for the general population (ABS, 2022).

That is **45% less income**, while costs for housing, food and family outings remain the same.

But the financial gap is only part of the story. **54%** of Australians with disability experience social exclusion,

more than **twice the general population** rate (Brotherhood of St. Laurence).

24% of Australians often feel very lonely and that social loneliness rises to **48.2%** for people living with disability (Relationships Australia, 2025).

1 in 3 actively avoid everyday situations, including community events, because of their disability. (Australian Disability Network, 2024).

Social isolation is more than loneliness. It contributes to anxiety, depression, and long-term health decline. Access to community experiences is one of the most powerful ways to build connection, belonging, and wellbeing.

Sports Events

More than 30% of our experiences relate to sport. From NRL and AFL footy games to money-can't-buy moments like meeting the McLaren Formula One Racing Team at the F1 Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne.

Adventure

Zoo visits, aquarium trips, and experiences like iFly are among our highest-cost experiences to deliver, but they are highly sought after by our families.

Entertainment

50% of tickets unlocked relate to entertainment, from arcade games and bowling to movies. 37% of these come directly from our partners at Funlab, who offer a wide variety of tickets at our lowest negotiated price.

Inclusive Events

The addition of Inclusive Events has allowed us to unlock experiences at a greater rate and, more importantly, connect families. These events were guided by feedback and requests from families themselves.

A DIFFERENT KIND OF CHECKLIST



While many families are preparing for fun, families living with disability are often preparing for uncertainty. Before they even arrive, they're already thinking about things most of us never have to consider.

Their checklist often looks like this:

- Will people understand my child's behaviours?
- Will my child cope?
- Can we afford today after paying for therapy?
- Are there accessible toilets?
- What if we have to leave early?
- Will siblings still enjoy the day?

This checklist is often the reason a family decides to stay home.



Financial pressure is only one barrier. Anxiety, accessibility, judgement and social isolation often make saying "yes" feel impossible.

That's why **What Ability Foundation doesn't just provide tickets.**

We unlock confidence, connection and belonging.



**4.72 average overall satisfaction
with What Ability Foundation.**

"We are so grateful to the What Ability Foundation. Thanks to their support, our family has gained greater independence, tried new things, and built meaningful social connections. **By removing the financial barriers that often hold us back, they've opened up a whole new world of opportunities for us.**" - **Danielle B**

"Thank you so much! Having this option has been so amazing for my children. **I have been able to take them to places I probably wouldn't have been able to do otherwise.**" - **Lucinda C**

"Thanks to What Ability foundation, **we have been able to go out as a family and engage in activities that we wouldn't normally do.** Having the ability to do the experiences for free has meant there is less pressure for us to complete the full experiences if our child becomes dysregulated. It also allows for 1 parent to enjoy the experience with 2 of our children, while the other parent focuses on skill building- particularly around safety in these environments. We are very grateful, thank you for the opportunities What Ability Foundation!" - **Katie D**

Hello, I just thought I would say thank you for the game cards I get through What Ability Foundation.

About once a month I usually go to the entertainment quarter for some fun.

It is great that my support worker gets to play as well!

I've also used your Strike vouchers as well. I have attached a photo of my brother and myself at Archie Bros Gold Coast, I went to visit him for the weekend Thanks **Richard**

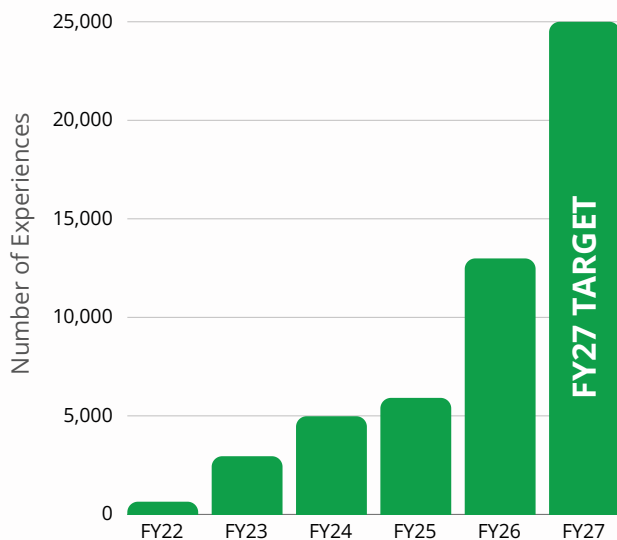
Thanks again for another wonderful opportunity to access one of your unique fun-filled experiences! Last month, I was lucky enough to escape reality for a few hours, and be distracted from some of life's challenges- all thanks to a visit to Archie Brothers curiosity of the What Ability Foundation!

Whilst initially unsure and reluctant, it wasn't long until I felt I was right back in childhood- with arcade games and classics I hadn't even thought of in years!! The darkness of depression was lit up by an abundance of bright lights and sounds, the pain and sadness replaced with laughter and games, and the anxiety and fear- well there was no room for that on the dance floor! We literally arrived as they opened the doors for the day- which was perfect for me to avoid crowds and not feel too self conscious. And the staff member working- I couldn't speak highly enough of (I wish I got his name, and thanked him properly but I was too caught up in to the moment!)

Sorry I don't have photos- but truly thank you to the guys at Archie Brother's Glen Waverley (Victoria)- and everyone from the What Ability Foundation for making these experiences reality. **These little moments and experiences make a HUGE difference bigger picture.**

Thanks again- and kind regards, **Lisa**

THE IMPACT



In FY25, we unlocked 5,913 experiences. In FY26, we reached 12,990, with 7,157 already unlocked in the first 6 months of 2026. FY27 is our next big leap 25,000 experiences and a major step toward one million by 2035.

The aim is to secure one major inclusive event in each state, bringing together more than 1,000 friends and family to celebrate inclusion.

We are also looking to expand our reach across all states and territories.

From eight families in a pilot year to 1,980+ families, with year-on-year growth averaging over 75% since 2023.

Beyond the Numbers

82% of our members say that, beyond financial relief, the greatest benefit of being part of What Ability Foundation is the increased social connection they experience.

It's not just access to experiences. It's the feeling of belonging. The chance to show up without barriers in the same places everyone else enjoys.

That's what your support makes possible. Not just a day out, but a life lived with greater connection, confidence and belonging.



Power of Partnerships

Every dollar entrusted to What Ability Foundation delivers greater impact. Through strategic partnerships, we secure experiences well below retail value - Funlab tickets for \$8.77 instead of \$20, and Taronga Zoo tickets for \$23.50 instead of \$49.50 per adult.

This purchasing power means every donation stretches further, enabling more people living with disability and their families to enjoy experiences they might otherwise miss. As demand continues to grow, expanding these partnerships will be key to creating even more opportunities for connection, participation and belonging.

OUR FOOTPRINT



NSW makes up

44% of our member base and
45% of our experiences unlocked

QLD makes up

19% of our member base and
15% of our experiences unlocked

VIC makes up

19% of our member base and
21% of our experiences unlocked

WA makes up

16% of our member base and
18% of our experiences unlocked

NT, SA & TAS makes up

2% of our member base and
1% of our experiences unlocked

GROWING OUR REACH

To support the growth of our member community and expand the range of experiences we can offer, we are focussed on securing five key partners in each state, including: sporting teams, experience providers and community organisations. These partnerships will help us unlock more consistent opportunities spanning a broader variety of experiences for our diverse member base.



PARTNERS & FRIENDS

AusGP: Community Partner for Formula 1 & MotoGP

Virgin: Try Before You Fly, Money Can't Buy Experiences & Let's Talk Inclusion

Optus: Day in the Life, Money Can't Buy Experiences & Let's Talk Inclusion

Cushman & Wakefield: Inclusive Event @ Taronga Zoo, Day in the Life

Funlab: Sensory Sessions, Day in the Life Experience Provider

VenuesWest: Experience Provider, Venue Provider

Shaw and Partners: Inclusive Event, Money Can't Buy Experiences

Corporate Volunteering

'Day in the Life' - A Shared Experience with Your Team

- ♥ Immersive, small-group experience alongside What Ability participants and support workers.
- ♥ Gain authentic insight into the everyday experiences, challenges and moments of joy within the disability community.
- ♥ Ideal for executives, leadership teams and culture champions.
- ♥ Create meaningful connections that challenge assumptions and inspire change.
- ♥ Leave with practical ideas to foster inclusion within your own organisation.



Education & Engagement

'Let's Talk Inclusion' Workshops - Face to Face or Online

Creating truly inclusive workplaces is about fostering cultures where everyone feels they belong. Through practical learning and powerful lived experience, our workshops help organisations build the confidence to turn good intentions into meaningful action.

- ♥ Interactive disability awareness and inclusion workshops
- ♥ Authentic lived-experience stories that challenge perceptions and inspire change
- ♥ Practical tools to create more inclusive workplaces and customer experiences
- ♥ Flexible delivery, from Lunch & Learns to leadership sessions and team workshops
- ♥ Tailored to your people, your culture and your inclusion goals



Day in the Life & Let's Talk Inclusion Sessions for FY26:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| • LinkedIn | • FEVER |
| • MIRVAC | • Sydney Kings |
| • Foxtel | • Optus |
| • TyrePower | • Harvey Norman |
| • Tiger & Bear | • Cushman & Wakefield |
| • Shaw and Partners | • Urban List |



MEET THE TEAM



Jack joined the Foundation in a part-time Office Administration role and has grown into one of our most impactful voices. Through our *Let's Talk Inclusion* seminars, he shares his lived experience to inspire workplaces across the country, while also helping unlock free experiences for families living with disability.



Ian became National Foundation Manager in January 2026 after leading What Ability in Western Australia. He is focused on growing the Foundation's reach, strengthening strategic partnerships, and building the foundations needed to expand our impact for families across Australia.



Wendy recently joined the Foundation as Manager, Strategic Marketing & Partnerships. Combining professional expertise with lived experience as Levi's mum, she is focused on growing awareness, securing strategic partnerships and creating sustainable support so more families can experience the joy of belonging.

GOVERNANCE

Our Board



Board Director

Brittany Grant
Shaw and Partners



Board Director

Jared Chapman
What Ability



Board Director

Brett Kubik
Funlab



Board Chair

Steve Dresler
Founder

Our Advisory Board

Sydney:

- Ryan Stafford - Stamford Capital
- Walid Sukkarieh - RCKT Co
- Jason Schulman - ISC
- Verity Edgell - Mastercard
- Richard Beaini - Harvey Norman
- Emma Lockyear - EL Creative Counsel
- Sonya Rosendroff - TAL Australia

Melbourne:

- Luke Tunnelcliff - JAM TV
- Chris Okley - Australian Tennis

Perth:

- Steve Archibald - Pragma Lawyers
- Katrina Zuzic - Cartec Training
- Cody Thompson - Disability Events Community
- Richard Broxton - Warriikal
- Robbie Figg - Host & MC West Coast Eagles

Brisbane/Gold Coast:

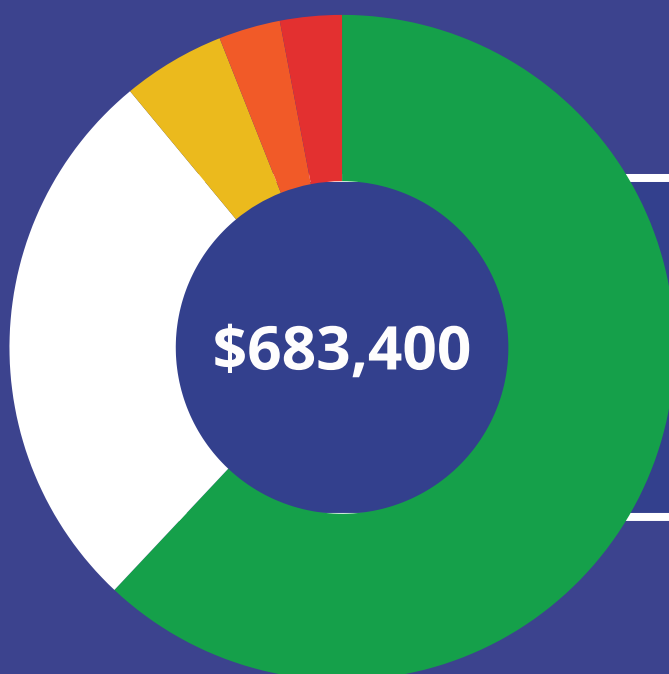
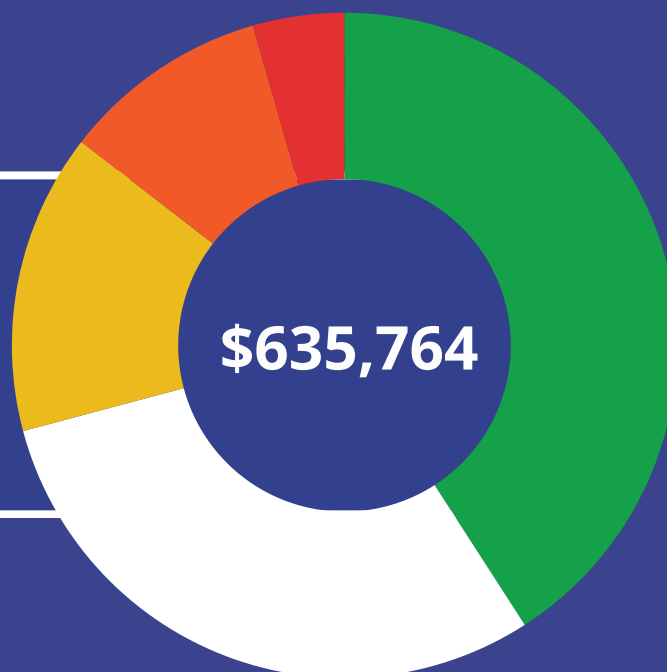
- Pele Ramdhani - Multicultural Advocate
- Pete Fairbairn - Queensland Rugby Union
- Jake Byrar - Super Retail Group

Coming Soon: South Australia and ACT

FINANCIALS FY26

Income Raised

- 41% Corporate Partners
- 30% Philanthropy
- 15% Grant Funding
- 10% Experience Partners
- 4% Individual Donations



Allocation of Expenses

- 62% Experience Costs
- 27% Salary & Wages
- 5% Operational Costs
- 3% Finance Expenses & Other
- 3% Marketing, Events & Fundraising

In-Kind Donations (Not included in Income Raised): **\$181,905 in Ticket Value**

Our impact is made possible by the generosity of many partners and friends who donate experiences across sport, entertainment and adventure, including the NRL, Funlab, Dolphins, Taronga Zoo, Tennis Australia, Tiger & Bear, AAMI, Manly Warringah Sea Eagles, Sydney Kings, VenuesWest, MECS Group, NSW Waratahs, iFly, Melbourne Storm, AusGP, RugbyAU, Optus and Essendon FC.

Average Cost per Ticket

Average cost per purchased experience: \$22.56

Average cost per donated experience: \$40.11

Blended average cost per experience: \$12.39

Your \$1 donation creates \$1.49 in real value – a 49% return in impact

LOOKING AHEAD: FY27-FY29

After growing from 5,913 experiences in FY25 to 12,990 in FY26, What Ability Foundation is entering its next phase of growth with a clear focus: scale our impact, strengthen our partnerships and build the support needed to reach one million experiences by 2035.

Over the next three years, we will grow our national reach, unlock more experiences for more families, and create stronger pathways for inclusion across Australia.

Our FY27 targets are bold and necessary: Unlock 25,000 experiences and secure \$750,000 in donations, grants, and in-kind support.

Reaching these targets will allow us to expand the range of experiences we offer, respond to growing demand, and deliver one major inclusive event in each state, bringing together more than 1,000 friends and family to celebrate inclusion.

Our strategic focus:

- Grow partnerships: Deepen existing corporate relationships and secure new national and state-based partners aligned with inclusion, community impact, and employee engagement.
- Expand fundraising: Grow Corporate Games, Corporate Volunteering, Containers for Change, fundraising events, and Experience Makers to create more diverse and sustainable income streams.
- Strengthen grants and major giving: Build a stronger pipeline of grants and philanthropic donors, while improving stewardship and long-term supporter engagement.
- Increase national reach: Expand into more states and territories through local partnerships, inclusive events, and stronger community connections.
- Invest in capacity: Strengthen leadership, governance, growth in our team and fundraising capability to support long-term growth and national scale.
- Improve the member journey: Invest in systems and automation that allow families to access experiences more easily and on demand, while reducing manual administration and creating a more efficient, scalable service model.

Every increase in support helps us unlock more experiences, reach more families, and move closer to a more inclusive Australia.



WE'D LIKE TO THANK ALL OUR DONORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

With the support of our incredible partners, donors, friends, and community, we are excited about the journey ahead and focused on achieving our goal of **one million experiences by 2035.**

Your support funds more than a day out. It helps create a life more fully lived.

What Ability Foundation will continue to close the gap, one experience at a time, for more than 1,980 families and counting.

We see FY27 as our biggest leap forward, and we are grateful for everyone who shares our vision: **to bring happiness to people living with a disability, and create a more inclusive world.**

