

DONOR IMPACT REPORT JUNE 2024



Our purpose

We work with people with disability to realise their potential.

We are striving to build an inclusive society where people can live the life they choose.

We support people with disability to reach their full potential by providing services and support to promote a genuinely inclusive society.

Our vision

We want to grow our services because people with disability choose us as their provider of choice.

Our values

We are a values-based organisation that fosters a workplace culture based on our core values of:

- **INNOVATIVE** – because we develop new ideas and solutions with creativity in anticipation of changing needs.
- **RESPECTFUL** – because we believe that everyone's voice is unique and that they have the right to be heard.
- **BRAVE** – because we have the courage to stand up for people with all abilities, even in the face of adversity.



Northcott acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands upon we work. We pay our respects to their Elders – past, present and emerging – and extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We also pay tribute to their ongoing connection to land, water and community.

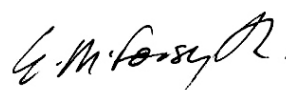
Message from CEO

Thank You

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our valued donors, corporate supporters, and volunteers for making a real difference in the lives of people with disability. Your continued generosity has played a vital role in achieving numerous programs, empowering people with disability to explore new opportunities and experiences. Your ongoing support is the foundation of our purpose, enabling us to sustain our efforts and create meaningful change.

Northcott would not be the organisation it is today, without our community. Our thanks go to Northcott's Board members, Executive team, staff, partners, supporters, donors, stakeholders and the people with disability and their families who choose Northcott as their service provider. We are proud to support children and adults with disability to reach their potential and live the life they choose.

This impact report highlights what our dedicated community of donors, across different levels, has helped Northcott deliver over the last twelve months. Our fundraising efforts focused on maximising the quality of life of the people we support. With the funds raised, Northcott will expand and grow services in regional areas, recruit and provide extra staff training, and give people with disability personalised support and the extras that make life brighter. Your generosity enhances our capacity to provide exceptional service offerings for people with disability. Thank you for believing in our purpose and for your support.



Liz Forsyth
CEO,
Northcott



Fundraising and Philanthropy has had a tremendous impact this year

\$560,000

in bequest income received.

120

adults with disability forged positive social connections via two date nights.

65

people including 7 corporate groups, volunteered their time, gifting 602 hours to our programs, people, and places.

319

donors embraced the Giving Day appeal, raising over \$88,616.

230

primary and secondary-aged children with disability enjoyed inclusive fun and competition at sports carnivals.

30

grants were won, totalling \$2.2M, benefiting 937 individuals, including 300 families of young people and carers of people with disability.

782

donors contributed \$320,000 through appeals, major gifts, and regular giving.

117

recent school leavers with disability increased their work readiness, undertaking over 4000 hours of work experience.

23

unique geographic regions and communities benefited from improved disability support and service availability through grants.

29

students supported with scholarships to pursue tertiary education.

300

hours of driver training support empowered 15 teens to prepare for their learner's licence.

250+

children received the support they needed beyond the NDIS.

Speech therapy that makes a difference

Through their work supporting people with disability, therapists at Northcott identified a need for a specialised social skills program known as the PEERS program.

This evidence-based program supports young adults with disability, empowering them to navigate the world and learn skills to form positive and ongoing friendships.

Claudia, our speech therapist in Wagga who works alongside two occupational therapists, and an allied health assistant is passionate about running the PEERS program. The team works hard to provide services for people with disability to achieve their goals.

Meet some of the participants

Lily, Alex, and Andrew are participants who accessed the PEERS program at Northcott Wagga Wagga. This program supported them to manage their anxiety in social interactions. It taught them strategies to build social skills with their peers and acquaintances in the community.

Sadly, social skills programs are not covered by the NDIS. They're only made available through the donations we receive at Northcott. Thanks to your incredible generosity, we have offered this program to young people with disability who need it the most, especially those in remote and rural areas where services are limited.

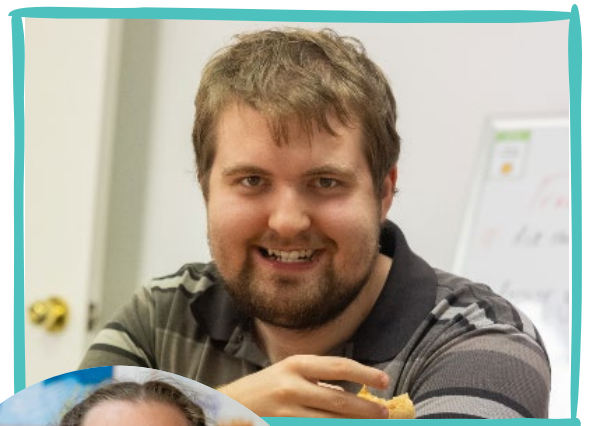
The occupational and speech therapy provided through the PEERS program has positively impacted our participants' social skills. Each participant needed support in areas such as gaining independence in daily activities, developing job-ready skills, and enhancing communication skills.

We are pleased to share updates from Lily, Andrew, and Alex, and shine a light on the significant impact the PEERS program has had on their lives.

Lily who loves making and selling scrunchies at local markets in Wagga, has attended many social events organised by The Guthrie Collective (a local support agency). She is enjoying her work at a local childcare centre and has also enjoyed organising catch-ups with a new friend.

Andrew and his mother enjoyed the PEERS program. They felt the content was good for anyone to learn as communication skills are important for everyone.

Alex has now had conversations with people to organise get-togethers. He is not interrupting others as much and his conversations are more reciprocal and enjoyed by both parties. He held a conversation with one of the therapists at the local Book Fair and introduced his friend. Alex is also communicating with his workmates and raising issues with the boss.



Andrew



Lily

The brightest Giving Day yet!

Thank you for supporting Northcott during our first NEON-Northcott Giving Day!

We were thrilled to have hundreds of people come together to make Giving Day a success again in 2023.

Everyone embraced our goal to make life brighter and donned their neon best to raise more than \$88,000! Thanks to each of you, Northcott can continue supporting people with disability to live life to the fullest. Here are some of the important projects this initiative is supporting:

- In March, our annual interschool swimming carnival was held, bringing smiles to the faces of children with disability from across Sydney
- We are just months away from completing construction on our new Dapto Hub - a purpose-built centre supporting the Illawarra community
- An emergency fund is helping us respond to the needs of people with disability and their families in crisis
- Your funds helped us equip a new Complex Health Coordination Clinic in North Parramatta, providing care for those with complex health needs in partnership with a specialist geriatrician

We loved seeing all the creative ways you came together to raise awareness and funds - walks, karaoke, BBQs, and more. We can't wait to see what you bring to the event in 2024!

HEROES, SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

Special thanks to our matching heroes and corporate sponsors and supporters. We couldn't have done it without you!

Heroes:

- Baresque
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- Toyota Australia
- Sydney Theatre Company



Our online campaign reached around 35,000 new and old friends

Hearts beat loud!

At the heart of what we do, you'll find champions who make it all possible—you our volunteers, and donors.

Your contributions, often made quietly and without seeking recognition, are the spark of so many of our initiatives and improvements that support individuals with disability and their communities.

This year, we welcomed volunteers from Citi Australia, who chose to spend a day with us as part of their global community commitment. Their involvement provided a fresh perspective on the power of lending a hand and the difference a group of dedicated individuals can make.

The Citi team supported our Work & Study participants — young individuals eagerly pursuing work experience and vocational training. This program is also lucky to receive support from a grant from the Citi Foundation, which is crucial for empowering youth to build the confidence and skills to be job-ready.

Empowering youth and building community

Mark Woodruff, CEO of Citi Australia, embraced an active role, sharing his experience and career advice with the participants while offering practical tips on job interviews and resume writing.

Citi's people also got stuck in revitalising our sensory garden, planting vegetable seedlings to be harvested and enjoyed later by our regular cooking programs. They also supported Life Skills participants on their art and film project, leaving a tangible representation of their visit and a memorable day of creativity and connection.

The Citi team's willingness to volunteer combined with the ongoing support from our donors is a clear reminder of the quiet yet profound impact of collective efforts. It's not just about the big gestures; every small act of kindness and support contributes significantly to our work and makes our community more inclusive.

“

"I can see potential in these young adults and enjoyed chatting to them."

Simon, Citi Volunteer

We are grateful to all our volunteers, donors, and corporate friends. Your generosity and commitment do not go unnoticed. You are a precious ally to Northcott. We lean on this to continue our work to empower people with disability to live the life they choose.



Simon, Citi Volunteer



Gifts from Citi staff brighten the day of others in Kempsey

Did you know buying May Gibbs products supports Northcott?

Many local and international artists are driving philanthropy in the art world, but here at Northcott, we're celebrating May Gibbs, Australia's iconic author, illustrator, and cartoonist.

She beautifully captured the essence of Australian fauna and flora through her enchanting tales and whimsical illustrations.

After her death in 1969, Gibbs generously bequeathed royalties from her creations jointly to the Northcott Society and Cerebral Palsy Alliance. Her legacy continues through numerous local brand collaborations and retail partnerships. In recent years, you may have purchased baby care products, fabrics, apparel, toys, stamps, stationery and home décor featuring licensed May Gibbs artwork from retail partners like BIG W and Spotlight as well as specialty stores like Ministry of Chocolate and Bondi Wash.

Every May Gibbs product you've purchased has supported our work at Northcott. Thanks to your support, we earned \$431,946 in royalties for FY 2023 alone. We appreciate you using your purchasing power for good and making a difference in supporting people with disability.

We encourage you to explore the May Gibbs collection when you shop, knowing that when you buy May Gibbs, you're supporting Northcott.



Scan the QR code to browse fashion and homewares online at the May Gibbs store.

Thank you for walking with us on the path to empowering people with disability and meeting us at the crossroads where art and philanthropy intersect.



“I've had the greatest pleasure always thinking of all those little children who enjoyed my books,” said Gibbs in an interview one year before her death.



Peaches and cream premiere: A triumph in disability awareness

Peaches and Cream is a groundbreaking short film produced in collaboration with Northcott's Sexuality and Relationship Education team and the inclusive film company Bus Stop Films.

The film features diverse talents including actors living with disability to authentically explore consent, intimacy and online communication through the story of a young couple with intellectual disability navigating a long-distance relationship. The film's concept was developed during a workshop with people with disability, allowing award-winning writer Emily Dash to create the script based on their lived experiences.

Accessible resources

The Peaches and Cream film and accessible resources were made possible thanks to funding from the auDA Foundation and the Profield Foundation. Recognising a gap in resources catered to people with intellectual disability (ID) Northcott partnered with Bus Stop Films to develop an accessible short film, lesson plan and resource pack. These resources, which show how to safely use the internet and understand consent, empower people with ID to advocate for themselves and their need for tailored and accessible education surrounding relationships, consent and sexuality.

Young people with ID experience difficulties understanding online content, social norms, appropriate and inappropriate behaviours and content sharing. Sexting in particular can place young people with ID at risk due to a lack of understanding of privacy, consent, and appropriate actions.

"People with disability are often vulnerable when it comes to navigating online communication. However, we should be able to explore our sexuality in a safe and positive environment. In order to do so we need either our parents to assist with providing education on that, or our support workers, disability networks, friends or extended family," says Brandon Fairley, Peaches and Cream lead actor with ID.

Learn more and spark conversations

The film and accompanying education guide are valuable tools for people with ID and their support networks to have judgment-free discussions on consent, dating, and online safety to empower informed decision-making.



Scan the QR code to watch the film



Thank you so much for your generosity

Northcott is grateful to receive donations, financial assistance, sponsorships, in-kind and pro bono gifts, support and advocacy from our members, other organisations, individuals and communities. This support enables Northcott to provide the services and supports children and adults with disability need to achieve their goals. While we cannot acknowledge all contributions here, we greatly appreciate all the support we receive.

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Maria MacKie

Estate of the Late Alla Kamaralli

Estate of the Late Allan
Archibald Rowling

Estate of the Late Anita
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Estate of the Late Barbara
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Mona Isobel Paul

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Charles Holder

Estate of the Late Ray
Leslie Wright Blencowe

Estate of the Late Veronica
Anne Barry (nee Hanlon)

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