



## MEDIA RELEASE

February 2017

### Helping hand needed for sick kids this March Bandaged Bear Appeal 1-31 March

Thousands of sick and injured children turn to The Children's Hospital at Westmead for a helping hand each year. They rely on help from doctors for treatment, help from nurses for care and help from researchers for answers. This March, the Bandaged Bear Appeal will raise funds to provide that.

Running from 1 March – 31 March, the Bandaged Bear Appeal raises vital funds that give the Hospital the tools needed to continue providing world class care, improving treatments and continue working towards cures for childhood illnesses for brave patients and their families.

This year, the Appeal is relying on the community to also lend a helping hand for sick kids, by raising **\$750,000**. These funds will allow the Hospital to continue purchasing the most advanced medical equipment, fund vital research and deliver services that are central to the wellbeing of patients and families, like five-year-old Bandaged Bear Appeal Ambassador, Jacinta.

Jacinta was born with a rare and extreme form of brittle bone disease known as Osteogenesis Imperfecta and has relied heavily on the Hospital for treatment since birth.

“Jacinta has been in and out of hospital her whole life. We've been really fortunate in the closeness of our medical teams though, they're always on hand whenever we need any advice or support. We wouldn't be where we are today without the support of the Hospital,” Jacinta's Mum, Lauren, said.

“We hope the community will support the Bandaged Bear Appeal this March because it's not just a building that they're donating towards, it's individuals lives and each donation has enormous impact on those lives.”

To support the Bandaged Bear Appeal, the community can:

- Make a donation
- Register to hold your own fundraising event (ideas online at [www.bandagedbear.org.au](http://www.bandagedbear.org.au))
- Purchase Bandaged Bear Appeal merchandise on Bandaged Bear Day

The Bandaged Bear Appeal will be officially launched on Wednesday, 1 March, with Bandaged Bear Day falling on Friday, 3 March.

The Bandaged Bear Appeal is the signature fundraising appeal for The Children's Hospital at Westmead. For details about the Appeal, how to get involved or merchandise locations, visit [www.bandagedbear.org.au](http://www.bandagedbear.org.au) or call 1800 770 122.

**#forsickkids**

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