



the infants' home
CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES

137 years of education, care and support for young children and their families



The Priceless Gift of Opportunity

Make a tangible difference and give to The Infants' Home Appeal

FROM THE APPEAL CHAIRMAN

It is my pleasure to chair this very important Appeal. The Infants' Home has accepted the challenge to raise \$6.5 million from the community towards building this state-of-the-art integrated Early Learning and Care Centre.

This development will allow the dedicated and professional staff of The Infants' Home to achieve the greatest outcomes for those we work with.

Please join with me in giving *The Priceless Gift of Opportunity*. Every dollar raised will ensure that The Infants' Home continues to meet the needs of the children in our care and their families.

Gillian Hirstman
President / Appeal Chairman



Early Learning and Care Centre

A place where children gain the very best opportunities in early life... A place specially designed to meet the changing needs of our community's most vulnerable families long into the future... A place where each child's unique potential will be duly nurtured.



“Make a tangible difference, give children the priceless gift of opportunity”

Since its inception, The Infants’ Home has fulfilled a unique and very necessary role in our community. Our work covers a broad range of services – but the very essence of what we do can be summarised in one phrase: *providing each child with every opportunity.*

Each year our services reach over 1300 children and their families, with a third of the children accessing additional programs tailored to their special needs. The Infants’ Home offers these young children opportunities to develop necessary life skills and to experience the encouragement and sense of belonging that is their fundamental right. These opportunities do not simply make the world seem brighter for children in the short term, they are vital to give children a good start in life.

Creating these life-changing opportunities for our children requires a pioneering vision – to develop a new, purpose built centre of excellence, a hub where all services are integrated for the benefit of the children and families.

This Early Learning and Care Centre will provide high quality integrated services including; child care and education, medical and allied health programs, counselling and parenting education, child and maternal health, early intervention and outreach and advocacy. It will allow us to further extend our support to all families – especially families experiencing hardship, in vulnerable circumstances and those with complex needs.

The Infants’ Home is faced with a steep challenge: our facility, most of which was built in the 1900’s, is fast becoming an inefficient environment in which to deliver our vital community services. The new centre will allow us to expand essential services and will ensure The Infants’ Home will still be positioned to offer the best possible opportunities for our children, for generations to come.

I commend The Infants’ Home Appeal, *The Priceless Gift of Opportunity* to your generosity, trusting that you will join us in this exciting and necessary initiative. With your help we will create a facility known for unprecedented care, ensuring the relevance and vitality of the outcomes achieved in the lives of so many children long into the future.

I sincerely hope you will extend your generosity to assist the realisation of this important project, which will greatly enhance our capacity to provide each child with the opportunity they deserve.

Anita Kumar
Chief Executive Officer



When staff at Robinson House were first introduced to the newest member of their group, 3 year old Sally, they perceived a very withdrawn little girl. While the other children played together, Sally would take refuge behind a curtain or in the corner alone.

Recognising that much of Sally’s social problems stemmed from her lack of communication skills, the highly experienced staff gently encouraged Sally to mimic words and phrases. Though hesitant at first, Sally began to respond...

It was clear that beneath her distant veneer, Sally desperately wanted to be included – to learn how to relate with others. Staff designed a program tailored to Sally’s individual needs, which included working with Sally’s parents to help them nurture their daughter’s burgeoning confidence.

Today, thanks to the attention and specialised care offered by The Infants’ Home, Sally is a social, happy child who voluntarily joins in group activities and has formed meaningful relationships with those around her.

Sally is one of the 400 children currently benefitting from our specialised program.



The solutions of yesteryear cease to be relevant when met with the unique challenges of today

The Infants' Home has long recognised this truth. It was in the spirit of defying outmoded conventions that the organisation was initially established.

The year was 1874, a group of courageous women fought against influential conservatives to establish a home for abandoned infants and unmarried mothers with 'illegitimate' children. These visionary women possessed the wisdom to recognise the folly of the dominant view of the time. They knew that, despite claims to the contrary, the home would not condone immoral behaviour – it would save vulnerable lives.

Over the years, The Infants' Home has evolved and changed in response to the contemporary needs of the community. We have continued to challenge the status quo in order to achieve the very best outcomes for children and families especially families in vulnerable circumstances. Today, once again we are met with the challenge to stride forward in the name of necessary progress.

Nothing could show more clearly than the earliest records of The Infants' Home the desperate need for women's rights. Rejected by everyone, they were often forced to criminal action, turning to infanticide and suicide.

Please pledge your support to help us secure a bright future for our children and their families.

Year	Activity	Community Need
1874	Orphanage	240 children, 90 mothers Convict movement, single parenting was not accepted in the community
1897	First Kindergarten	Educational need for children in the orphanage and integrate with children in local area
1951	Infant feeding and settling clinic	Early intervention for mothers with young babies
1972	First to move from institutional care model (Orphanage) to Child care (LDC, FDC & Foster care)	Addressing the needs of vulnerable and working families by providing other forms of care
1977	Women and Children's stress centre	Women going through Domestic Violence
1984	Exclusive Multipurpose centre for vulnerable families	Stronger services and keeping families together
2004	Integrated Child and Family Services	Range of early childhood and early intervention services, inclusive service delivery in a universal context
2011	Multipurpose Regional Hub	Integrated education, care, early intervention and family support service delivery in a multidisciplinary model

The Early Learning and Care Centre – Designed for tomorrow's needs

This visionary Early Learning and Care Centre will house all our services under one roof, allowing us to more cohesively deliver programs and affording families seamless access to our care. The facility has been designed to meet ever-growing demand and will accommodate our services as they continue to evolve, to ensure that children and families truly have the very best level of care possible for many years ahead.

- The purpose built Early Learning and Care Centre will be developed on existing land at The Infants' Home grounds in Ashfield and will comprise a range of specially designed spaces including play and sleep areas, therapy rooms, a family information area and meeting spaces for the general community.
- It will create a tailored learning environment with the potential to train new educators from universities and colleges around the country, and will offer a facility for research and education, complete with viewing areas and training space.
- A new community clinic specialising in paediatric allied health; will be established to address an identified priority need within the community.
- The centre has been architecturally designed to look onto the existing trees and manicured gardens. Existing heritage buildings will house health and allied health practitioners, sleep and settling clinic, playgroups, Family Day Care and corporate services, ensuring that the historic and serene atmosphere is preserved.
- This critical development will set a new standard of excellence in the provision of care and raise the bar for universal service delivery, thus empowering families.
- The Early Learning and Care Centre will provide a blueprint for best practice in early childhood services, Australia wide.

Total Project Cost: \$10.5 million
Committed/Indicated: \$4 million
Community Fundraising Goal: \$6.5 million



'I just don't know how to say thank you for helping me raise my child – this is something you just can't put a price on.' – Parent

** All donations are tax deductible*



Your support and what it means for each and every child

Boasting exceptional staff, an effective organisational structure and highly successful service models, The Infants' Home has all the elements required to deliver a high quality evidence based service to families from all walks of life into the future. All elements except one: The best possible physical environment to house our services.

Whilst we have been resourceful in effectively adapting our services to the given environment, the ageing facilities on The Infant's Home site are limiting our potential to provide even greater opportunities for each child and family in our care.

Ours certainly is a bold vision, but we draw on the long tradition of courageous tenacity and the fearless dedication to children and families established by our pioneering predecessors. We want the best for all children, and we invite your support for this most worthy and ground breaking development.

Your investment in the lives of our children will have far-reaching benefits for today and tomorrow.

Please give generously to *The Priceless Gift of Opportunity* Appeal and become a partner in this vision.

To make a donation to this great cause please contact:
Anita Kumar, CEO – 0414 395 824 or
Gavin Thomson, Director of Development – 0418 440 330

For online donations please visit
www.theinfantshome.org.au
or forward your cheque to:

The Infants' Home
17 Henry Street,
Ashfield NSW 2131

Recognising Your Support

Special gifting opportunities are available to donors who wish to make a considerable donation, pledge or planned gift in support of The Infants' Home Appeal. An appropriate honour roll will be erected, and plaques placed on suitable items will acknowledge some gifts as determined by the Board and if desired by the contributor.

Separate levels of recognition will be established to honour your generous contribution:

Founders:	Gifts of \$500,000 or more
Champions:	Gifts between \$50,000 < \$500,000
Guardians:	Gifts between \$5,000 < \$50,000
Friends:	Gifts < \$5,000

All donations are fully tax deductible and may be made over a three year period. Gifts may be made in the name of a company or an individual or in memory of a loved one. Of course, a pledge of a planned gift would also be extremely welcome.

You can become an important part of this important project. Please consider funding the following:

Early Learning and Care Centre 1	\$1,875,000	Therapy and Clinical Spaces	\$310,000
Early Learning and Care Centre 2	\$1,115,000	Parent Information Centre	\$80,000
Early Learning and Care Centre 3	\$1,280,000	Community Clinic – Paediatric, Allied Health	\$460,000
Preschool	\$840,000	Research and Training Facility	\$165,000
Maternal Health Clinic	\$100,000	Playgroup Spaces	\$235,000

Or you may prefer to fund areas within the buildings:

Learning Spaces x 11	\$420,000 ea	Outdoor Family spaces	\$66,000 ea
Creative Outdoor Learning spaces x 3	\$235,000 ea	Pavers	\$200 ea
Therapy and Clinical spaces x 3	\$80,000 ea	Bricks	\$100 ea

All recognition will be retained in situ until further refurbishment is required then relocated to an appropriate recognition site.



While the cost of a donation may be measured in financial terms, the impact on our community will be truly immeasurable.

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