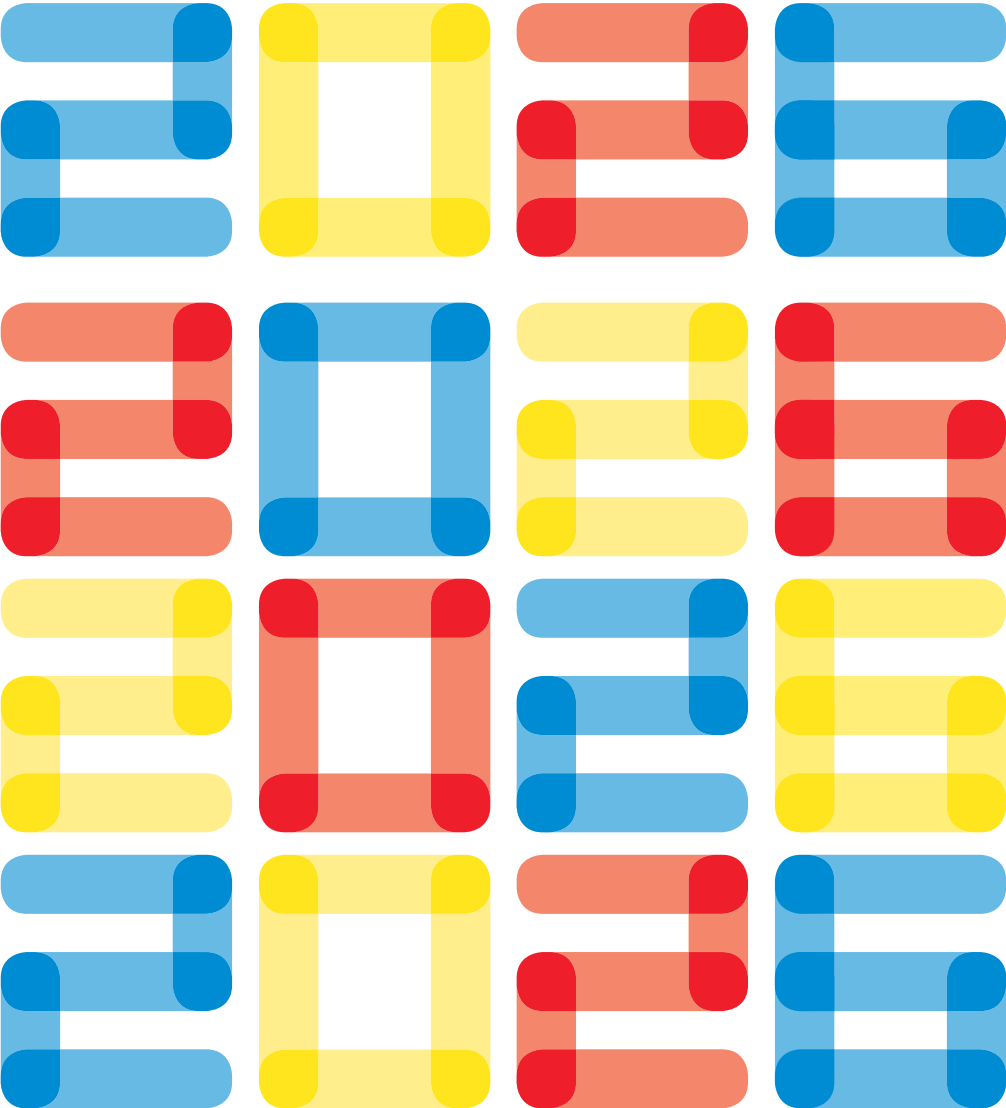




In FY26, applications received by MAD described needs ranging from greater independence and participation to urgent matters of safety, nutrition and respiratory care.

81

applications received

\$425,636

approved for funding

51%

life-sustaining or
safety-critical

69%

high-intensity care

48%

children under five

26 years of community generosity

\$3,146,766 in direct support to 469 families of children and young people living with disability and facing significant hardship

This year, MAD marks 26 years of making a practical difference in the lives of children and young people living with disability and facing significant hardship.

What began with a small group of friends coming together in 2001 has grown into a trusted, volunteer-led charity with a clear purpose: to respond when essential equipment, therapy or support is needed and other funding pathways fall short.

Over 26 years, MAD has provided more than \$3 million in direct support to the families of over 450 children and young people across Australia. Behind each of those figures is a family navigating complex circumstances—often with urgent needs, limited options and little time to wait.

MAD's work is made possible through trusted relationships with specialist medical and allied health professionals, including teams at the Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne, Monash Children's Hospital and the Victorian Paediatric Rehabilitation Service. These clinicians know the children and families they support, identify where help is most needed and bring forward applications when there is nowhere else to turn.

The assistance MAD provides is practical and targeted: mobility and positioning equipment, communication devices, therapy programs and other essential supports that can improve quality of life and enable greater participation in everyday life. Sometimes it is a single item; at other times it is support that helps a family through a longer and more difficult period.

At the heart of MAD is a simple but powerful partnership. Volunteers contribute their time and expertise. Partners, fundraisers and donors provide the resources. Medical and allied health professionals connect us with those in need. Together, this enables MAD to act quickly, carefully and with compassion.

Our entirely volunteer-led model remains one of MAD's greatest strengths. With no paid employees and minimal administrative costs, we are able to ensure that the overwhelming majority of funds entrusted to us go directly towards helping children, young people and their families.

To every donor, sponsor, fundraiser, volunteer, clinician and supporter: thank you. Your generosity allows MAD to continue responding when it matters most—and ensures that more families know they are not alone.



Damian Toohey
President, MAD Foundation

*Inspire, Connect,
Make a Difference*

MAD works with specialist medical and allied health professionals who understand a child's needs and the circumstances of their family. Through these trusted referral relationships, practical needs can be identified, supported with relevant evidence and brought to MAD for consideration.

MAD's role is focused and responsive: funding essential equipment and services when mainstream support is unavailable, outside scope, insufficient, unaffordable or unable to respond in time.



Stage 1. Need identified

A healthcare professional identifies equipment, therapy or care that could materially improve a child's safety, health, capability or participation.



Stage 2. Clinical evidence

The referring healthcare professional explains the need, the expected benefit, the other funding pathways explored, the consequences of denied access to support and, where relevant, the consequences of waiting.



Stage 3. Request reviewed

MAD's volunteer team reviews the evidence, cost and circumstances, seeking clarification where required.



Stage 4. Support funded

Approved assistance enables the recommended equipment or service to be put in place for the child and family.

MAD online application portal

MAD's online portal is the application system used by eligible referring healthcare professionals. It creates a consistent pathway, captures the evidence required for decision-making and helps a volunteer-run organisation respond efficiently while retaining appropriate oversight.

MAD's ability to respond begins with trusted healthcare professionals.

In FY26, applications came from major hospitals, rehabilitation and palliative-care services, community health organisations and specialist allied health practices.

Referring clinicians explain the child's clinical and practical needs, the expected benefit of the recommended support and the other funding pathways explored.

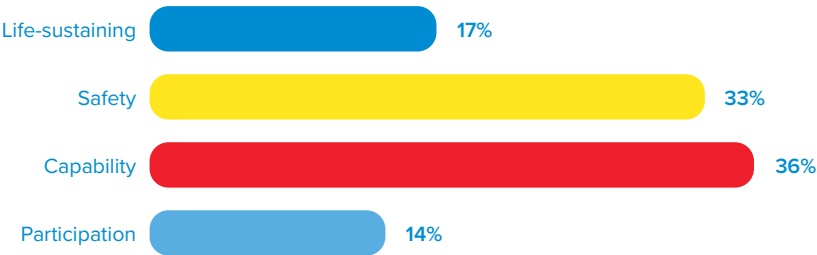
Families provide the financial and caring context, with other members of the treating team contributing where appropriate. Together, this evidence helps MAD direct practical support where it can make a meaningful difference.



Understanding the need

The applications received by MAD describe needs that are practical and often deeply consequential. They include a child’s safe discharge from hospital; essential nutrition and airway management; safe sleep, bathing and positioning; mobility and communication; and the means for families to provide care safely at home.

How applications were classified



Share of applications submitted through MAD’s application portal in FY26.
Applications were grouped by MAD according to the main need addressed by the requested support.

Safe discharge

“For the child to be safely discharged from hospital, she requires a stroller that can carry the essential equipment needed for tracheostomy management.”

Essential nutrition

“She relies on continuous tube feeding for 18 to 20 hours each day to keep her blood sugars stable and give her enough nutrition to remain strong for surgery.”

Feeding safely

“He is no longer safe to eat and drink orally. The equipment is needed to prepare food to a consistency that can be safely provided through his feeding tube.”

Airway safety

“The borrowed suction machine must soon be returned, leaving the family without equipment that is essential for maintaining the child’s airway safety.”

Children and carers at risk

“Any further delay is putting the child and his carers at risk. In my professional opinion, waiting for the current decision to be appealed is not safe.”

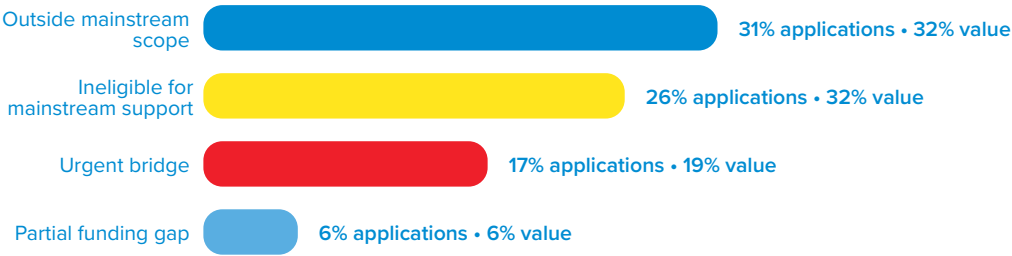
Recovery at home

“Without this temporary equipment, she risks becoming largely housebound after surgery, with reduced access to personal care and greater physical demands on her family.”

Why MAD was needed

Among approved applications submitted through MAD's application portal in FY26, MAD most often assisted where the requested support fell outside mainstream funding scope or the child was ineligible for mainstream support. MAD also responded where available funding was insufficient or another pathway could not meet the need in time.

How MAD filled the funding gap



Approved applications submitted through MAD's application portal in FY26.

MAD's role in the funding landscape

MAD does not replace the broader systems intended to support children living with disability. It responds to the gaps those systems can leave: equipment outside scope, families who are ineligible, partial funding and urgent needs that cannot safely wait.

Woody — Therapeutic Bed



Woody is a three-year-old boy with complex lifelong disability. Frequent head banging made safe sleep increasingly difficult, and he was close to outgrowing the small porta cot that had helped protect him. MAD contributed to a

disability-specific hi-low bed with enclosed mesh sides and padded ends. The bed will provide a safer place to sleep and double as an adjustable change table, reducing unsafe lifting for his parents and carers.

“At the moment he’s nearly 4 and still sleeping in a portacot (the fourth bed that we have tried for him). His current and future sleeping arrangements have always been a source of anxiety for us – we didn’t know how we were going to find a safe sleep solution that ticked all the boxes for him — this bed does.

Knowing that he’ll soon have this feels like a massive burden of worry has been lifted. We have had a very joyous week celebrating and sharing the news with family.

There are so many moments in this journey that are heavy, and your generosity has brought so much lightness and peace. It feels refreshing and healing to have Woody’s needs seen, acknowledged, addressed and now met. Thank you.

Thank you for seeing Woody and for choosing to support our family in such a practical and meaningful way. We are so, so grateful.”

— Tess, Dan, Woody and Owen

Lasya — Walker and Standing Frame



Lasya is a three-year-old girl with cerebral palsy. Because of her family’s visa status, she could not access funding for equipment that would help her stand, walk and build

strength. MAD funded a walker and standing frame, giving Lasya more opportunities to practise movement and build independence, confidence, strength and endurance.

“We want to express our deepest gratitude to MAD for making it possible for Lasya to have these equipment.

Lasya was originally one of twins, her twin ‘flew to the sky’ when I was seven months pregnant. From that moment, Lasya’s condition became more fragile, and she was closely monitored. Yet, even before birth, she showed incredible determination to survive.

These equipment mean so much for Lasya, for us. They allow her to practice standing and walking in ways that build her independence and confidence. Lately, she has been thrilled to stand in her favorite dresses and even practice what she proudly calls her ‘princess walk’; something she couldn’t do when she was mostly crawling.

Thank you so much for helping make this possible and for connecting us to the support we needed. Please also extend our gratitude to the donors behind MAD. We are truly blessed by their generosity, and we pray for many good things to come to everyone who has helped.”

— Lasya’s mother

Abigail — Customised Wheelchair Support



Abigail is an 11-year-old girl living with Sanfilippo Syndrome, a progressive condition that has caused substantial loss of function. MAD funded specialised components and occupational

therapy support to customise a re-issued wheelchair. The new seating gives Abigail safer positioning and better head support, helps her travel to school and makes community access easier for her family.

“Abigail is now using the wheelchair which was generously funded through the MAD foundation. It fits her beautifully with thanks to Sam/OT who has kindly supported the family through this process.

The customised wheelchair has made such a difference to Abigail and her family. The ability to be seated safely and comfortably has enabled the family access the community more easily and to be safely transported in the bus to attend school.

Now that she is in a customised wheelchair she is able to sit with her head in an upright position and we can now see her gorgeous face and smile.

Thanks again for your generous support!”

— Sarah Raspin,
Senior Occupational Therapist,
Victorian Paediatric Palliative Care Program,
The Royal Children’s Hospital

Malik — Trolli Stroller



Malik is an eight-year-old boy with quadriplegic cerebral palsy and complex lifelong disability. His customised wheelchair supports him well but is

extremely difficult to lift into the family car. MAD funded a compact supportive stroller that is easier for his family and support worker to transport, enabling Malik to leave home and take part in family and community outings more safely.

“Wow, thank you so much on behalf of Malik, his family, and I for MAD’s generosity. When I called Ghadir (mum) to let her know, she broke down in (happy) tears and said to me, ‘thank you for taking the depression away from my heart.’ This stroller will make such an enormous, positive difference.”

— Kimberley Arnott,
Senior Occupational Therapist,
Muddy Puddles OT

MAD25 brought more than 450 supporters together at the Plaza Ballroom and raised \$337,000 to support MAD's continuing work with children, young people and families.





In Financial Year 2026 the MAD Foundation raised \$326,015 net of event, non-operating and admin expenses and paid out a total of \$401,308 (123%) in support of beneficiaries, retaining closing reserves of \$595,699 for the future support of MAD beneficiaries.

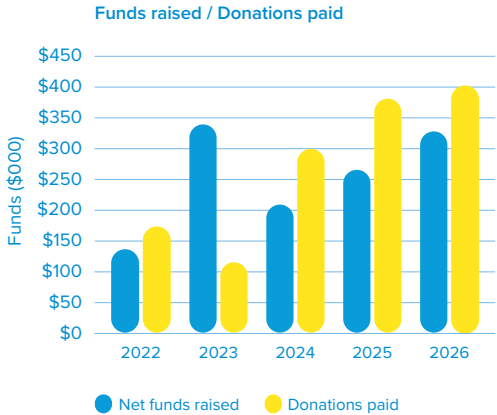
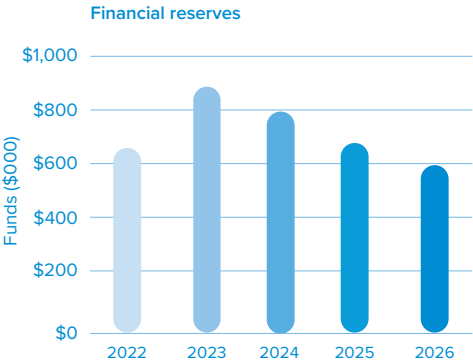
This year MAD paid a total of \$401,308 in support of children and young people living with disability and facing significant hardship.

\$401,
308

ADMIN EXPENSES WERE **1.5%** OF TOTAL REVENUE
FUNDRAISING COSTS WERE **33%** OF TOTAL REVENUE
NET FUNDS RAISED WERE **57%** OF TOTAL REVENUE
DONATIONS PAID WERE **123%** OF NET FUNDS RAISED

Donations paid exceeded net funds raised by \$75,293, with the difference funded from MAD's accumulated balance.

Measure	FY2026	FY2025
Total revenue	\$568,236	\$474,748
Event and non-operating expenses	\$233,730	\$200,452
Administration expenses	\$8,491	\$7,083
Net funds raised	\$326,015	\$267,212
Donations paid	\$401,308	\$382,816
Opening balance	\$670,992	\$786,596
Deficit for the year	(\$75,293)	(\$115,604)
Closing balance	\$595,699	\$670,992



Why MAD holds reserves

Beneficiary needs arise throughout the year and do not necessarily coincide with fundraising income. MAD therefore maintains reserves so it can continue responding to eligible requests, including in years when direct assistance exceeds net funds raised. These reserves provide continuity and ensure that accumulated community support is available when families need it.

Every application reviewed, event delivered, partnership sustained and grant funded depends on people who give their time, expertise and support to MAD. We thank our Board, volunteers, ambassadors, healthcare partners, sponsors, donors and community for making this work possible.

Board

Andrea Boal Beneficiary Liaison
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Elizabeth Priddle Secretary
Chris Steiger Treasurer
Michael Thorn Vice President
Damian Toohey President

Ambassadors

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Laura Cooke
Chris and Sean Lynch
Tom Lynch and Olivia Burke-Lynch
Cameron Mackenzie
Jason Richardson

Communications Team

Charlie Francis
Olivia Burke-Lynch

MADball Creative

Garnish Design

Typesetting

The Squeezebox

Printing

Southern Impact

Partners



Community Bank
Malvern East, Murrumbena
and Wantina





Major Contributors







Help make practical support possible when families need it most



Support MAD

For 26 years, MAD has connected those in need with those who can help. Your support enables us to continue funding life-changing equipment and services for children and young people living with disability and facing significant hardship.

There are many ways you can help:

- **Make a tax-deductible donation**

Every contribution, no matter the size, helps us deliver essential support.

<https://www.madfoundation.com.au/donate/>



- **Become a MAD Ball sponsor**

Join our community of generous sponsors as a **Silver, Gold**, or **Platinum** supporter and be part of one of the most memorable and rewarding nights of the year.

- **Donate goods or services**

Contribute an item for our **auction** or **raffle** or offer a **professional service** that MAD would otherwise need to purchase.

- **Volunteer with us**

Whether helping at events, offering specialist skills, or assisting behind the scenes, our volunteers are at the heart of everything we do.

To learn more or get involved, visit [madfoundation.com.au](https://www.madfoundation.com.au) or contact us at admin@madfoundation.com.au.

Your support helps deliver real, practical assistance to those who need it most.