

IMPACT

THE UNICEF AUSTRALIA SUPPORTER MAGAZINE

unicef 
AUSTRALIA
for every child

SV

ISSUE

10
2023

IN THIS ISSUE

A child-friendly
guide to the Voice
to Parliament

Emergency update
from Syria
and Türkiye

Test cricket captain,
Pat Cummins'
Borroloola diary

Youth voices on
climate action



IN THIS ISSUE

02

Welcome letter
and news updates

03

AUSTRALIA

A child-friendly guide to
the Voice to Parliament

04

SYRIA AND TÜRKIYE

Emergency update

06

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Test cricket captain,
Pat Cummins'
Borroloola diary

08

VANUATU

Protecting babies and
changing lives
in Vanuatu

10

AUSTRALIA & THE PACIFIC

Youth voices on
climate action



WELCOME LETTER

Tony Stuart, CEO

Thanks to your generous support, UNICEF's impact during the first half of 2023 has been immense. Together, we have delivered life-saving solutions for vulnerable children all over the world.

Whether it was the earthquakes as we saw in Türkiye and Syria, the ongoing war in Ukraine, the escalating crisis in Sudan or the many emergencies that don't make the media spotlight, UNICEF is always there. With our global presence and unfaltering donor support, we can be there for children before, during and after an emergency. For this, we thank you.

This year, our climate work remains a critical priority as we support communities to develop and implement climate resilient strategies. We are partnering with innovative programs that teach students how to mitigate and adapt to the climate challenges they face in their communities.

We are also bringing awareness to the hidden crisis of unregistered births around the world and here in Australia. Without a birth certificate, it can be difficult for children to access essential services like education and child protection.

In the upcoming Voice to Parliament referendum, UNICEF Australia proudly supports a Yes vote. We believe it's time to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Constitution through a Voice, and it's a big step towards improving the lives of Aboriginal children in Australia.

Thank you again for your continued support of UNICEF. This issue of IMPACT shares the stories of the children you have helped across the globe.

Tony Stuart
Chief Executive Officer



On the cover: A young boy learns on Country as part of the Indi Kindi early childhood education program. ©UNICEF Australia/2023/Hill

Top: Keziah, seven, is returning to school after the recent climate-induced twin-cyclones in Vanuatu. © UNICEF/UN0820669/Shing

Bottom left: Young girl paints at Indi Kindi in remote Borroloola. © Supplied/News Corp Aus/Ruttyn

Bottom right: Newborn mother and baby practice kangaroo care at Port Vila, Vanuatu. © UNICEF Australia/2023/Mobbs

Opposite page: Illustrations ©Ingeous Studios/2023

A child-friendly guide to the Voice to Parliament

How to answer kid's big questions about the referendum

At the core of UNICEF is a commitment to children and young people having a voice in matters that affect their lives. When every child and young person is given this opportunity, we see it result in better outcomes.

● WHAT IS THE ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART?

The Uluru Statement from the Heart is an invitation to all Australian people for a better future.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from all over the country came together to create the Uluru Statement from the Heart, which is a call for truth about our country's history, treaty and meaningful and practical change by having a Voice to Parliament.

● WHY DOES THE VOICE TO PARLIAMENT MATTER?

Having the Voice to Parliament become part of the Constitution matters because is a big step towards unifying Australia.

It recognises that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were the first people here, and it also gives them a say over the laws and policies that affect them, like education and health care.

● WHAT IS THE VOICE TO PARLIAMENT REFERENDUM?

The referendum is a vote on whether the Voice to Parliament should happen or not.

The Government is asking Australian people over 18-years old, to decide if we should recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Constitution with a Voice. The Voice to Parliament would be a group of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives, chosen by Aboriginal peoples from around the country, to offer advice to the Government on laws and policies that directly affect them and their communities.

● WHAT WILL CHANGE IF THE VOICE TO PARLIAMENT IS SUCCESSFUL?

Aboriginal people will be able to offer advice to politicians in Parliament on issues that directly affect them.

The Voice to Parliament will unite all Australians and recognise Aboriginal people which is a positive change for the country. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, it ensures their voices will be heard on decisions which impact them.

The words of the Uluru Statement from the Heart say it best,

“WHEN WE HAVE POWER OVER OUR DESTINY OUR CHILDREN WILL FLOURISH. THEY WILL WALK IN TWO WORLDS AND THEIR CULTURE WILL BE A GIFT TO THEIR COUNTRY.”



HOW CAN I BE AN ALLY FOR THE VOICE TO PARLIAMENT?

You can be an ally by learning about the Voice to Parliament and speaking to family and friends.

Talk to your family and friends and encourage them to learn about what the Voice to Parliament actually means. There are so many great resources to learn from, such as [Yes23.com.au](https://www.yes23.com.au) or [ulurustatement.org](https://www.ulurustatement.org).



DID YOU KNOW?

The most successful referendum held to date was in 1967, when **more than 90 per cent** of Australians voted YES to include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people as part of the population.



The road to recovery

UNICEF emergency specialist Peta Barns, shares how children in Syria and Türkiye are recovering from the devastating earthquakes

It was 4 am in early February 2023 when UNICEF emergency specialist, Peta Barns woke up to a nightmare in her north-west Syrian home.

"I realised my whole building was moving and it was pretty terrifying. I had been in earthquakes before, but nothing like this."

Rushing outside down flights of stairs, supporting her neighbours and their young children along the way, Peta witnessed a magnitude 7.7 earthquake happening around her.

"It was complete devastation, especially in some of the areas that had already been hit by 12 years of ongoing

conflict. It was heartbreaking. You could see it in the kids' eyes, trauma upon trauma."

"By 5 am, my colleagues and I were in the office responding to the earthquake. Over the coming weeks, the office became home for 150 staff, cats and a couple of birds."

Australians have been there from the start of this emergency, whether with generous and kind donations or on the ground delivering supplies like Peta. Within 48 hours, UNICEF responded to the urgent needs of the millions of affected children in the border region of Türkiye and Syria.

But after an immediate emergency response occurs, what's next?

Peta says, "It will take years to rebuild the damaged infrastructure and facilities, while the psychological impacts on children could continue beyond that. UNICEF is looking at how we can rehabilitate. We had to evolve from what we call 'life-saving' things like trucking clean water to how do we fix those water systems to make it more sustainable. And that takes time and help from our supporters."

"THE EARTHQUAKES MAY HAVE FADED FROM THE HEADLINES, BUT IT WILL TAKE YEARS TO REBUILD LIVES. THE NEEDS ARE STILL HERE, BUT UNICEF WILL BE HERE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY."

PETA BARNs



Your impact in action



279,000 +

people received mental health and psychosocial support



765,000 +

people reached with clean water and hygiene supplies



472,000+

children provided with formal and non-formal education.

**As of June 2023*

Continue to help rebuild lives in Syria & Türkiye



SCAN ME

SUPPORTER PROFILE

Jim's legacy for future generations

Around the world, millions of children are enduring unprecedented crises, from wars to climate disasters. But thanks to people like you, there is hope. A gift in your Will is one of the most inspiring ways to give back and ensure UNICEF is there for every child for generations to come.

One person who has left a kind gift is Jim Sisson, a longtime UNICEF supporter. Having worked in natural resource management for 50 years in Australia and overseas, Jim knows too well how important our environment is, especially for future generations.

"From my work, I know the severe impacts of climate change. It's already felt by communities worldwide, affecting them through disease vulnerability, reduced crops and damage to water resources," says Jim.

For Jim, leaving a gift in his Will means that he can make a lasting impact for years to come.

"ANYTHING THAT IS GOING TO GIVE CHILDREN A BETTER FUTURE SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN PROGRAMS WHERE POSSIBLE."

JIM SISSON



If you're inspired to leave a legacy for future generations, contact our friendly Gift in Wills team via bequests@unicef.org.au or on **1300 884 233**.

Fundraising for a cause

How our community has been there for children in the last six months.

A massive thank you to the schools and universities across the country who have fundraised for UNICEF Australia so far in 2023!

Together, you've raised over \$100,000.

MONASH UNIVERSITY ISLAMIC SOCIETY (MUIS)

MUIS hosted a #CookForSyria bake sale at their university to support UNICEF's emergency response for the earthquake in Syria and Türkiye.

RAISED \$1,700



"IN ANY EMERGENCY CRISIS IN THE WORLD, OUR RELIGION TEACHES US TO ALWAYS HELP THOSE IN NEED WHATEVER WAY WE CAN, WHICH IS WHAT MOTIVATES US TO DO WHAT WE DO EVERY DAY IN OUR SOCIETY."

ST ANDREW'S ANGLICAN COLLEGE

Initiated by Barb, their librarian with a heart of gold, staff at St Andrew's Anglican College organised a sausage sizzle and a lunch with delicious Ukrainian food to raise funds at their school's rugby game night.

RAISED \$1,140





PAT CUMMINS' Borrooloola diary



"AS A DAD TO ALBIE, I KNOW THAT I WOULD DO ABSOLUTELY ANYTHING TO GIVE HIM THE BEST CHANCE TO SUCCEED IN LIFE. EVERY PARENT I MET IN BORROLOOLA FEELS THE SAME ABOUT THEIR KIDS."

PAT CUMMINS

UNICEF Australia Ambassador and test cricket captain Pat Cummins visits the groundbreaking early childhood development program, Indi Kindi, in the remote Borrooloola, in the Northern Territory.

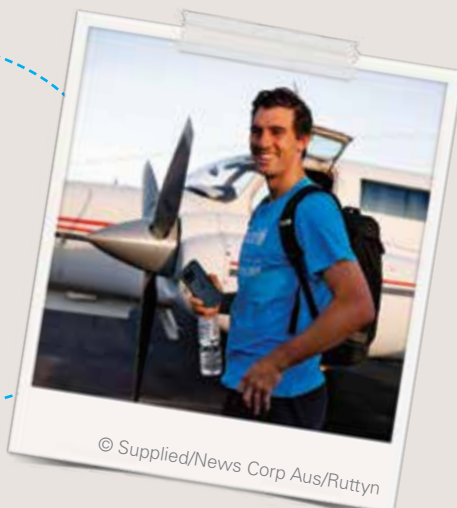
DARWIN

BORROLOOLA

NORTHERN
TERRITORY

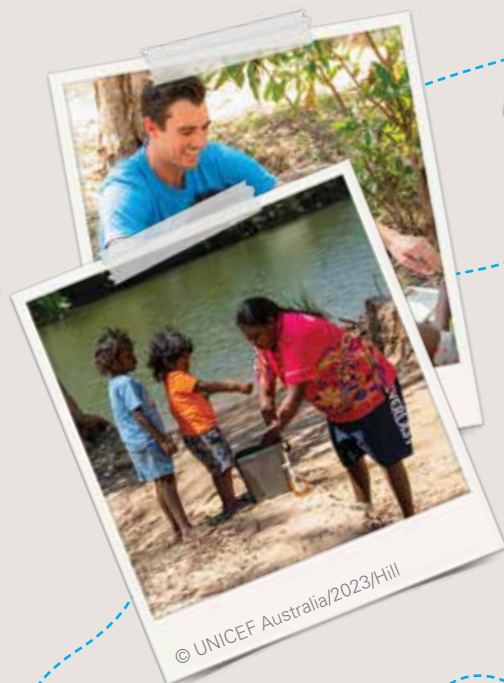
**6AM**

Pat travelled by light plane to reach Borroloola, a remote town 1,056 km southeast of Darwin in the Gulf of Carpentaria. You may not have heard of Borroloola, but something incredible is happening there.

**9AM**

Pat arrives at the Indi Kindi program where children learn on the riverbank instead of the classroom. The program is led by local Aboriginal women who are mentors and leaders in their community. Indi Kindi's culturally inclusive activities deepen connections to Country, culture and identity.

It's a program that captured Pat's heart as soon as he became a UNICEF Australia Ambassador 18 months ago and he's been a donor ever since.

**10-12PM**

Pat joined the little ones in a morning of nutritious food, rock painting, reading and singing on Country. It was a hot 37-degree day, but children were happy learning under the shade of the trees. Activities like these are essential for early brain development.

Pat says, "I've just been taken through a great lesson here at Indi Kindi. We did some rock painting, paint on paper, singing and playing around the sand in the water. It was great, it's beautiful here, it's really peaceful. The kids love it and I feel really lucky to be here and experience it."

**3PM**

After lunch at the local café, Pat joined Aboriginal youth in some friendly (but a cricket captain is always a little competitive!) football practice. These young people are part of the John Morarity Football program which provides coaching and nutritious meals daily after school program.



Want to see more from Pat's visit to Indi Kindi?

Scan the QR code to watch his full video diary!



SCAN ME



"IT IS REALLY AMAZING HOW THESE PROGRAMS HAVE A HUGE IMPACT ON THESE COMMUNITIES."

"Education has always been huge in my life. My mum was a teacher, and we were lucky with the opportunities we had. But many children in remote Indigenous communities across Australia are growing up without adequate access to the quality education, support and health care they need to get the best start in life," says Pat in reflection of his time in Borroloola.

From northern Syria to Northern Territory, Australia, UNICEF Australia works to give every child the brightest futures. And it's only with your help that we can be there, no matter what.



To learn how you can help Aussie kids build a brighter future please visit: fundraise.unicef.org.au/indikindi

 VANUATU

Nurturing parents, protecting babies and changing lives

How a simple, cost-effective and high-impact
intervention is saving newborn lives in Vanuatu

Every parent, no matter where they are, wants their child to have a healthy start in life. But not too far from Australia, in the Pacific Island nation of Vanuatu, expecting parents face significant challenges to bring their little ones to the world.

Thanks to you, UNICEF is there with families and newborns in places like Vanuatu every step of the way.



For healthier beginnings, no matter what

In May 2023, UNICEF Australia teams visited Vanuatu to see an incredible maternal newborn care program in action. Bethany Stirling, our International Programs Manager says:

“HERE IN VANUATU, I HAD THE PRIVILEGE TO SEE HOW EVEN THE SMALLEST CONTRIBUTION CAN HELP TO GIVE EVERY CHILD A CHANCE TO SURVIVE AND THRIVE”.

The *Saving Lives, Spreading Smiles* program aims to improve newborn outcomes in Vanuatu by empowering caregivers to provide quality newborn care, including a simple, low-cost and high-impact intervention known as kangaroo care. As part of the program, in partnership with the Ministry of Health in Vanuatu, UNICEF Australia is delivering 500 kits across the country. The kits include a blanket, towel, soap, beanie, socks, thermometer, amongst other items, designed to keep premature babies warmer and to create a long-lasting bond between them and their caregivers.

Skin-to-skin, a lifeline for premature babies

Kangaroo care is a natural, effective, and low-cost intervention that can be utilized in any setting. In places like Vanuatu, it can be the difference between life and death for premature babies.

The skin-to-skin contact during kangaroo care, not only create stronger bonds between parents and newborns but also helps regulate the baby's body temperature and reduce stress. This helps prevent some of the leading causes of death in premature babies, including hypothermia, infections, sepsis and breathing problems. The benefits also include psychological and behavioral, pain and stress relief for preterm newborns.

Baby Tyviana couldn't wait to come to this world and meet her mum Cendrella. Weighting only 840 grams, she was born almost two months before her due date. Seeing her little girl in the incubator was not easy, but since Cendrella started practicing kangaroo care she feels more positive and connected with her baby.

“I’VE SEEN A BIG DIFFERENCE IN PRACTICING KANGAROO CARE AND SKIN-TO-SKIN, INCLUDING A BIG WEIGHT CHANGE IN MY BABY.”

CENDRELLA

“KANGAROO CARE HELPS TO REDUCE THE MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY OF PREMATURE BABIES. WE KNOW THAT LOW-BIRTH-WEIGHT BABIES ARE AT A HIGHER RISK AND CAN GET VERY SICK VERY FAST, DUE TO LOW BODY TEMPERATURES.”

DOCTOR ANNETTE,
PAEDIATRICIAN AT A UNICEF-SUPPORTED HOSPITAL

Our kangaroo care kits



UNICEF works closely with partners through the *Saving Lives, Spreading Smiles* program to strengthen health systems for essential newborn care in Vanuatu.

Thank you for helping UNICEF give every child in Vanuatu a healthy start in life.
Your generosity is a lifeline.

Youth voices on climate action



Young people in Australia and the Pacific are calling for climate preparedness and resilience

The climate crisis has impacted many children and young people around the world, including us here in Australia and our closest neighbours in the Pacific. It's time to listen to these young, resilient voices and find out how together we can create a greener world for future generations.

"WITHOUT THE RIGHT INVESTMENTS IN CLIMATE RESILIENCE CHILDREN WILL BE LESS HEALTHY, EDUCATED AND EMPLOYABLE IN THE LONG RUN."

NISHADH REGO, CLIMATE POLICY AND ADVOCACY MANAGER AT UNICEF AUSTRALIA

© UNICEF/UN0771176



Jobod, 22 years old

CLIMATE ACTIVIST, MARSHALL ISLANDS

"I'm from a big ocean nation in the heart of the Pacific. Everywhere you look, there is water.

But with rising sea levels and frequent droughts, what we once considered our friend now threatens our islands. Pacific Islanders are forced to migrate to higher grounds, leaving behind our homes and our cultures.

But we want to stay and thrive. I urge [for] the prioritisation of water, sanitation and hygiene services as a part of resilience building for our communities.

For the sake of generations to come."

Charles, 23 years old

UNICEF-SUPPORTED YOUTH VOLUNTEERS' PROGRAM, VANUATU

"Earlier this year here in Vanuatu, we've experienced two cyclones consecutively in three days.

The sea level has been rising. Places we never expected the sea to reach, the sea has now reached. Some of the really big trees along the coast were uprooted due to erosion. Our crops don't grow as big as they used to, like sweet potatoes and cassava.

We need to unite in the fight against climate change.

If you cut down a tree, don't forget to replant one. Keep speaking to your children about climate change and their futures."

© UNICEF Australia/2023/Mobbs



Here in Australia, we've engaged young people from the University of Technology Sydney in a climate-focused internship project. In just 12 weeks, they put forward an innovative solution to the complex question – **how can Australians better understand the needs and perspectives of children and young people in the face of impending climate disasters?**

Imogen, 21 years old

UNICEF AUSTRALIA CLIMATE
& ADVOCACY INTERN

"Our research shows the impacts of climate on children is life-long. We know that decision-makers need to better understand the needs and priorities of children when it comes to climate disasters. **We [young people] are Australia's future leaders; our voices should be listened to.**"

Ariana, 21 years old

UNICEF AUSTRALIA CLIMATE
& ADVOCACY INTERN

"In consultation with UNICEF, academics, experts and clinical psychologists we have designed an activity book for children aged 8-11 who are experiencing climate disasters in Australia. This book is designed to be therapeutic for children and collect data surrounding their experiences. The goal is to better **understand children's needs and perspectives to shape climate policies in the future.**"

Read more
about our innovative
climate programs



SCAN ME

Main: UTS students present at UNICEF Australia the findings from their internship project.

From back left: William, Caterina, Imogen, Khayla, Ariana, and Amelia.

From front left: Aaron, UNICEF Australia Child and Youth Engagement Coordinator, Freya, UNICEF Australia Child and Youth Engagement Manager, and Nishadh, UNICEF Australia Climate Policy and Advocacy Manager.



THE CLIMATE CRISIS IS A CHILD RIGHTS CRISIS



Help UNICEF
continue supporting
children like Son.
Donate today

Ten-year-old Son is a Khmer girl from Viet Nam. Environmental pollution has contaminated her only water source, affecting her long-term health. UNICEF is working daily with local partners and governments to provide sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene solutions to ensure every child is protected from harm.
© UNICEF/UNI401054/Viet Hung



**Australian Committee
for UNICEF Limited**
ABN 35 060 581 437
PO Box 587 PYRMONT NSW 2009
Phone: 1300 884 233
Email: support@unicef.org.au
unicef.org.au/impact-edition10

f @UNICEFAustralia
t @unicefaustralia
i @unicefaustralia

**Australian
Aid**

unicef
AUSTRALIA
for every child

UNICEF Australia acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country of the land and communities in which we and our partners work throughout Australia, and their connection to their lands, waters, and communities. We pay respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and cultures, and to Elders both past, present and emerging.