



THE ECONOMIC BENEFIT OF LITTLE WINGS



your journey is our mission

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A child being diagnosed with a severe illness becomes an emotional time for both the child and their family. Coping with illness can affect many areas of a child's life and have long lasting effects. Severe illness requires high levels of care and as children seek the support of their parents, this can also place stress on families who bear the emotional and financial burden of treatment.

In NSW, the three major children's hospitals are located in the metropolitan areas of Sydney and Newcastle. For families living in regional areas with children who are dealing with severe illness, this poses challenges in accessing service options and travelling long distances to hospitals.

Little Wings was established in 2012 as a community based, non-government organisation to support sick children and their families in regional NSW by providing end-to-end ground and air transport to hospital from rural areas. Little Wings aims to:

- make medical-related travel for the child and their family as easy as possible
- reduce stress and the financial burden associated with travel, and
- return families home as quickly as possible.

What originally began as a flight service to support children receiving cancer treatment at The Children's Hospital in Westmead has expanded over the last seven years. Little Wings now offers support to other seriously sick children and families living in regional NSW and has partnerships with the Sydney Children's Hospital in Randwick and the John Hunter Children's Hospital in Newcastle. In 2019, Little Wings supported 105 families across regional NSW and completed 477 journeys, including 439 flights and 38 ground transfers.

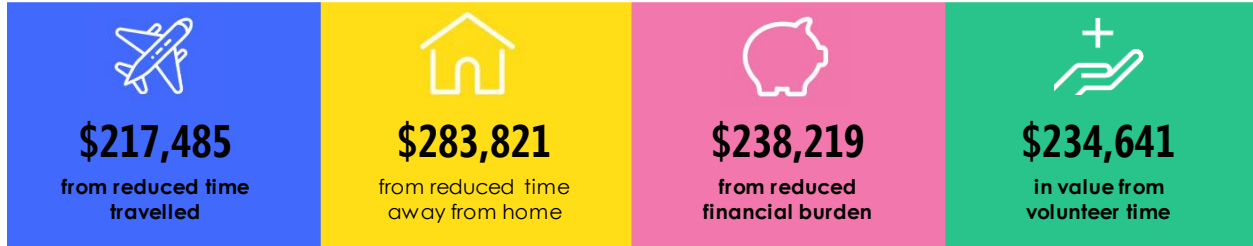
Economic impact of Little Wings

The economic value of Little Wings is estimated at \$974,000 each year. This means that on average, the benefit of Little Wings to a family is around \$9,200 for every year of support they receive. Little Wings delivers this benefit by giving time back to families, supporting them to, as much as possible, maintain their day-to-day activities and spend more quality time as a family by reducing their travel time. Providing end-to-end travel services alleviates some of the financial burden and emotional and physical stress associated with travel for families travelling with children dealing with severe illness.

There are families that are taking part in Little Wings who are required to make more trips per year to receive treatment than the average Little Wings family. This is particularly common among families who have a child with cancer. One family made 23 trips in 2019, receiving \$31,388 in annual benefits. Each case is individual given the diversity in family needs and illnesses being experienced and it is clear that some families require greater financial support as treatment regularity is more intense in some instances.

Little Wings generates...

AN estimated benefit of **\$974,000** per year



Childhood cancer in Australia

The incidence rate of all children's cancers combined, has increased by **35%** over the past three decades



Little Wings provides each family with around **\$9,200** in benefits per year

Some families made up to 46 trips from 2017-19, receiving a total of **\$62,697** in benefits

How does Little Wings support families?



236 families, 30 towns

Since 2012, Little Wings has helped 236 families and completed over **2,000** journeys across more than 30 locations



In 2019, Little Wings completed **477 journeys**, made up of: 439 flights (with ground transport) and 38 ground only transfers

Other Little Wings benefits include...

77% of families

say that Little Wings gave them more time together as a family

87% of families

say that Little Wings reduced the stress associated with travel

45% of children

missed fewer school days due to shorter travel time and time away from home

66% of children

had more time and flexibility for their activities in day to day life at home



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1. THE CHALLENGE: LIVING REGIONALLY WITH SEVERE ILLNESS

1.1 Severe illness in children

There are a number of severe illnesses that can affect children as young as babies. Cancer is one type of these severe, life-threatening illnesses. Children's cancer is defined as diagnoses that present in patients younger than 15 years old.¹ In 2005, 705 children under the age of 15 were diagnosed with cancer in Australia.² By the end of 2019, it is estimated that 804 children in this same age cohort will be newly diagnosed with cancer across Australia. The incidence rate of all children's cancers combined has increased by 35 per cent over the last three decades.³

Although incidence is relatively low in people under the age of 15, cancer is the most common cause of chronic disease death among children.⁴ Children's cancer is rarer than adult cancer and, unlike cancer presentations in adults, is not linked to lifestyle and is not preventable. The most common types of cancer diagnosed in children are leukaemia (33 per cent of all cases), tumours of the central nervous system such as brain tumours (25 per cent) and lymphomas (10 per cent).⁵

Other severe illness types that children can experience include neurological disorders and chronic kidney failure:

- Neurological disorders affect the brain, spinal cord, nervous and musculoskeletal systems and can lead to epilepsy, developmental delay and cerebral palsy. These illnesses are often severe, can have long lasting effects on children and require high levels of care.⁶ Cerebral palsy is the most common cause of physical disability in children, with one in every 500 babies in Australia being diagnosed with the condition.⁷
- Chronic kidney disease and kidney failure is most common in adults but can also affect babies through to teenagers.⁸ It permanently damages kidney function and worsens over time, requiring dialysis as treatment until a kidney transplant is possible.⁹ Unlike adults, kidney disease in children is not caused by diabetes or high blood pressure but is linked to birth defects and hereditary factors.¹⁰ Chronic kidney failure means that children can struggle to build meaningful relationships, experience learning and development issues and feel isolated.¹¹

¹ Children's Cancer Institute (2019), Childhood cancer: the facts, accessible at: <https://ccia.org.au/home/our-purpose/childhood-cancer-information/>

² Cancer Australia (2019), About children's cancer, accessible at: <https://childrenscancer.canceraustralia.gov.au/about-childrens-cancer/statistics>

³ Cancer Council (2019), Cancer Council and childhood cancers, accessible at: <https://www.cancer.org.au/about-cancer/types-of-cancer/childhood-cancers/cancer-council-and-childhood-cancers.html>

⁴ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2005), Selected chronic diseases among Australia's children

⁵ Cancer Council (2019), Cancer Council and childhood cancers, accessible at: <https://www.cancer.org.au/about-cancer/types-of-cancer/childhood-cancers/cancer-council-and-childhood-cancers.html>

⁶ ANSCNS (2019), Neurological disorders in childhood, accessible at: <https://www.anzcn.org.au/>

⁷ The Sydney Children's Hospital Network (2019), Cerebral Palsy (CP), accessible at: <https://www.schn.health.nsw.gov.au/fact-sheets/cerebral-palsy-cp>

⁸ Kidney Health Australia (2019), Kids on Dialysis, accessible at: <https://kidney.org.au/your-kidneys/support/dialysis/kids-on-dialysis>

⁹ KidsHealth (2019), Kidney Diseases in Childhood, accessible at: <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/kidney-diseases-childhood.html>

¹⁰ Kidney Health Australia (2019), Kids on Dialysis, accessible at: <https://kidney.org.au/your-kidneys/support/dialysis/kids-on-dialysis>

¹¹ Kidney Health Australia (2019), Kids on Dialysis, accessible at: <https://kidney.org.au/your-kidneys/support/dialysis/kids-on-dialysis>

Coping with a severe illness in childhood affects many areas of life for both the child and the rest of their family. A child diagnosed with a severe, life-threatening illness commences a journey with the health system, which can impact their education and broader wellbeing. Parents experience emotional stress, financial burden due to treatment costs and disruptions to their work and everyday life. Other family members, including siblings, can also experience disruptions to their everyday life.

1.2 What it means to live in rural and remote areas with severe illness

In NSW, the three major children's hospitals that provide oncology, haematology services and specialist medical treatment for children affected by cancer are located in the metropolitan areas of Sydney and Newcastle. These are:

- The Children's Hospital, Westmead
- Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick
- John Hunter Children's Hospital, Newcastle.

For families living outside the metropolitan areas of Sydney and Newcastle, receiving treatment often means an additional physical, emotional and financial burden associated with travel to these major hospital locations.

People living outside of metropolitan NSW experience a number of inequities compared to their counterparts in metropolitan areas and these inequities include challenges associated with access to health, education and infrastructure. A key challenge that families face when dealing with severe childhood illnesses in regional NSW are the limited service options to treat children with such illnesses and increased financial hardship, both of which lead to increased emotional stress.¹² Cancer patients living in regional areas often experience later diagnosis and have a poorer rate of survival.¹³

¹² The trauma and Grief Network (2014), Kids in rural and remote areas: Coping with tough times

¹³ National Rural Health Alliance Inc. (2012), Cancer in rural Australia, accessible at: <https://ruralhealth.org.au/sites/default/files/publications/fact-sheet-08-cancer-rural-australia.pdf>

2. 'YOUR JOURNEY IS OUR MISSION'

2.1 Little Wings overview

Little Wings was established in 2012 as a non-profit organisation to assist seriously ill children and their families in regional NSW to access the specialised medical care they need. Little Wings provides free, professional and safe flights and ground transport services to help children in rural and remote areas to access medical services which are often only offered in metropolitan areas.

The Little Wings Mission is **to give hope and strength to regional families with seriously ill children by easing the journey between hospital and home.** Little Wings delivers a free flight service which is guided by their core values of – safety first, integrity, professionalism, compassion, and commitment.



What originally began as a flight service to support children receiving cancer treatment at The Children's Hospital in Westmead is now an extended transport service, offering other seriously ill children and their families living in regional NSW flights as they undergo critical treatment at the three major children's hospitals in NSW. Little Wings also provides ground transport to and from the airport to both the hospital and home, delivering an end-to-end transport solution for families travelling for treatment.

In 2019, Little Wings completed 477 journeys, made up of:

- 439 flights (with ground transport) and
- 38 ground only transfers.

The organisation currently operates three aircraft, which provided 51 per cent of the flights in 2019. The other 49 per cent were provided through commercial flights. When Little Wings is not able to fly families on their aircraft due to weather conditions, maintenance or availability, commercial airliners provide flights at a discounted rate to Little Wings so that families are always provided with a safe, free and professional service.

Since 2012, Little Wings has helped 236 families, completed over 2,000 journeys and has recorded 1.8 million kilometres in the air and on the ground.

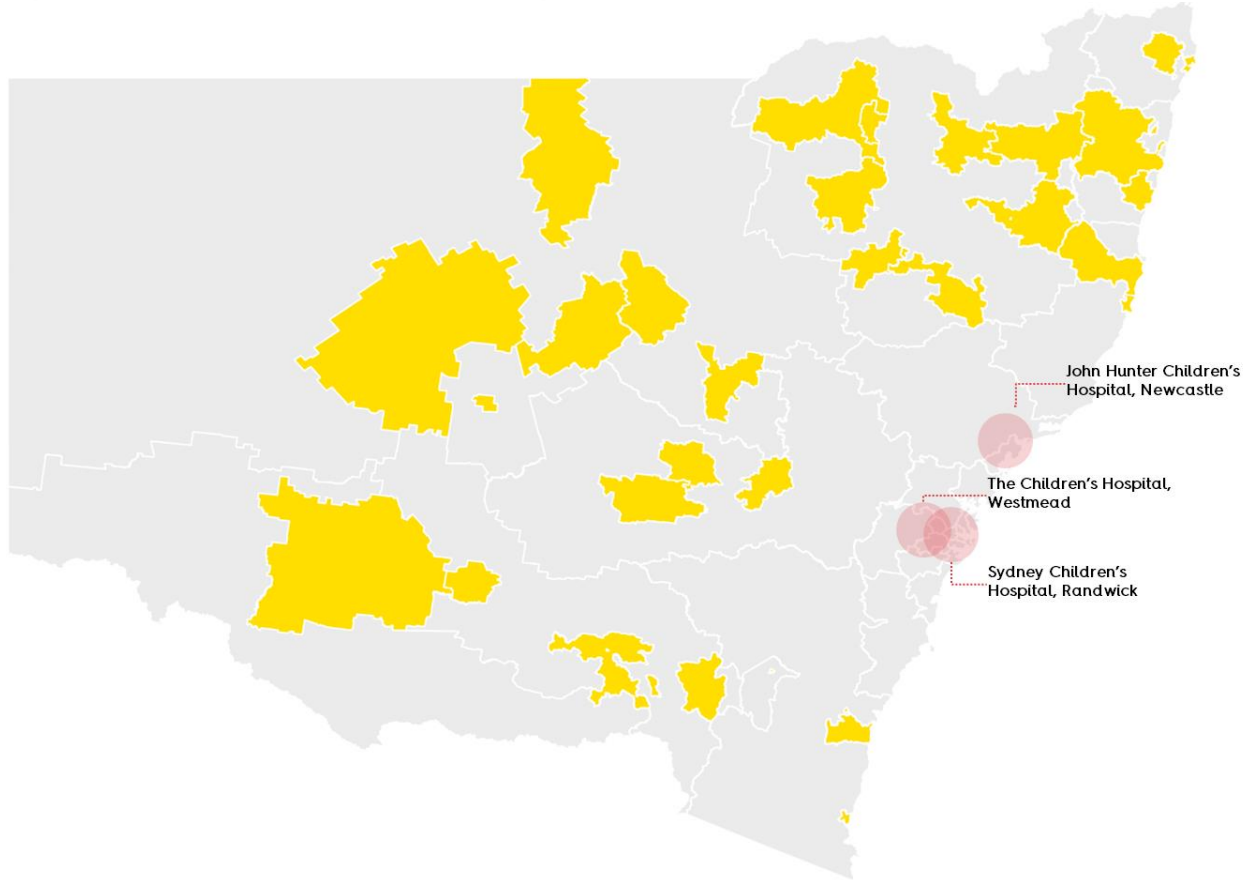
2.2 Who uses Little Wings?

Little Wings currently supports 105 families across regional NSW, as shown in **Figure 1**. Around 70 per cent of the children currently being supported are children requiring oncology services at one of the three major children's hospitals in NSW. Little Wings also supports children in regional NSW with other severe illnesses including:

- neurological disorders

- chronic kidney disease
- chronic respiratory disease
- metabolic disorders.

Figure 1 Families supported by Little Wings (2018)



Source: Little Wings (2019)

On average, Little Wings families live 500 kilometres away from the two major children's hospitals in Sydney. In the absence of Little Wings, these families would have had made the 1,000 kilometre return journey to and from the hospital by car or public transport. Due to the severity of illnesses, the travel would likely be physically taxing for the children and require multiple stops along the way, extending typical journey time. The average distance of the families from the children's hospitals in Sydney are summarised in Table 1 below.

Table 1 Average distance of families from Sydney

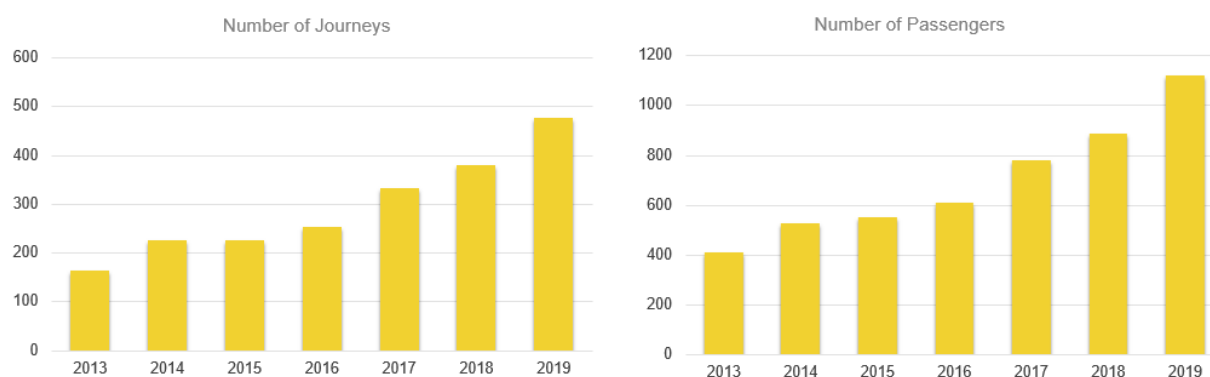
Average distance from Sydney	Number of families
Less than 300km	4
300 - <500km	40
500 - <700km	22
Greater or equal to 700km	9
Total	75

Source: Little Wings (2019)

In 2019, Little Wings conducted 477 journeys, averaging 40 each month. Little Wings flights are across all of regional NSW, however, the location from which Little Wings most frequently flies is Dubbo, with 84 flights in 2019. On average, families received support for five visits to the hospital each year, noting that the largest number of flights for one child has been 23 flights to and from the hospital.

Little Wings has more than doubled its operations over the last seven years and continuing to help more families in regional NSW who need their support. Support from the community, volunteers, sponsors and partners has enabled Little Wings to expand from delivering 165 flights from 18 locations across NSW in 2013, to its current 477 journeys in 2019, across more than 30 regional locations and even providing transport beyond NSW's borders for special circumstances.

Figure 2 Number of Little Wings flights and passengers (2013-19)



Source: Little Wings (2019)

2.3 Some families use Little Wings more frequently than others

The average number of trips that a family made in 2019 was five. However, it is important to note that some of the families who use Little Wings are required to make more than the average amount of trips due to increased severity of their child's illness and need for treatment. The majority of these families had a child who has cancer, meaning frequent trips to the hospital or specialist appointments to manage and treat their illness. Some families made between 10 to 23 trips within 2019 alone and hence the total benefit received from participating in Little Wings is higher for these families.

2.4 Little Wings' partners, volunteers and sponsors

Little Wings services to children and families are re-enabled through:

- **Hospital partnerships** – Little Wings has established strong relationships with each of the three major children's hospitals in NSW, formalised through Memorandums of Understanding. Little Wings rely on these relationships and the support of the hospital staff to refer the patients to the Little Wings service and to help prioritise needs with the limited resources available. The relationships with hospitals help to ensure that:
 - travel is well aligned with medical appointments
 - important medical appointments are kept
 - time in transit is minimised so that families can return back home as soon as possible.

- **Volunteers** – Little Wings relies on an ongoing volunteer base, including pilots who fly families to and from Sydney Bankstown Airport and Newcastle, and volunteer drivers that provide ground transport between the airport and the hospital. Currently, the Little Wings volunteer crew includes nine pilots and 27 drivers.
- **Sponsors** – Little Wings has the support of seven key partners and sponsors. ClubsNSW has been the Little Wings foundation partner since its establishment, having provided funding and in kind donations including office space to run operations from and use of club facilities and services to host events. Other sponsors include Hyundai Help for Kids who help on-ground through a vehicle support program, assisting families with transport from airports to hospitals and back.



3. CHANGING THE JOURNEY

The benefits that Little Wings generates through its transport services impact not only the children, but also their parents, carers and other family members. To support the economic analysis to measure impacts, Little Wings distributed an online survey to current and previous Little Wings families to understand what Little Wings has been able to change for children, parents, carers and siblings. Surveys were sent to 75 families and 48 responses were received. This data, alongside Little Wings operational data and evidence gathered from a desktop review informed the analysis to quantify the impact that Little Wings brings to regional NSW.

Little Wings benefit areas are listed in the figure below, categorised by the approach taken to articulate value.

Figure 3 Benefit categories by approach



Source: PwC (2019)

The following sections describe the estimated benefits for each quantitative benefit category including:

- reduced time away from home
- reduced time travelling
- reduced financial burden
- volunteer time

Each benefit has been calculated based on the number of families and trips taken in a given year.

3.1 Quantified Little Wings benefits

The economic benefit of Little Wings is estimated at \$974,000 each year, based on the current number of families being supported (105 families in 2019). This means that on average, Little Wings provides benefits of an estimated \$9,200 per annum to each family for each year they receive support. When considering costs, the Little Wings return on investment is at least 1.5.

Reduced time away from home

In the absence of Little Wings, families would travel an average of 8 hours each way to receive treatment at one of the three major children's hospitals in Sydney and Newcastle. Many families would have made these journeys by car and some would use public transport. The frequency, associated fatigue and cost of travel means that for some families, coming back home as often during treatment would not have been possible.

"We simply would not have been able to get home for nine months without Little Wings... our stay in Sydney would possibly have been longer (over 12 months) without this service"

The provision of end-to-end transport solutions for families by Little Wings allows families to maintain as much of their daily routine as possible during the time of treatment. Little Wings reduces a typical journey to hospital from an average of 8 hours down to an average of 3 hours. The shorter travel time means that carers and the children experience more time back at home.

The value of time saved due to the reduced travel has been associated with the opportunity cost of the time that the families would have spent travelling. For parents and carers, this means fewer missed days at work. For children, the reduced time spent travelling can mean increased attendance at school and in extracurricular activities which can be costly.

Over 70 per cent of parents and carers stated that Little Wings has given them more time and flexibility to keep up their regular activities in day to day life at home.

"...we spent time back at home in between treatments which made our life a little more 'normal', a little more fun and a little less exhausting. We were able to spend quality time with family and close friends"

"If we were not able to fly with Little Wings during my son's treatment we would not have been able to come home as often. We would not have made it home for Christmas. When you only get 3-4 days home between treatments, being able to cut a day's journey down to 1.5 hours meant that we could spend more time at home..."

Table 2 Reduced time away from home benefits

Little Wings' reduced time away from home benefits	Estimated value p.a.
Value of time saved due to reduced travel	\$234,847
Reduced cost of missing activities	\$48,974
Total	\$283,821

Source: PwC (2019)

Reduced time travelling

It is common for families to experience emotional stress when caring for a child with a severe illness. It is estimated that over 60 per cent of parents and carers of children with cancer experience depression, stress and anxiety during their child's treatment as they support their family during such a difficult time. For families in regional areas, the distance to receive treatment means that they can be separated for long periods at a time which can impact the emotional and mental wellbeing of family members.

Families who receive support from Little Wings said that they experienced a reduction in stress levels due to the relief and the knowledge that travel arrangements are being taken care of (87 per cent of families). The majority of parents noticed their children were feeling more settled about travel due to Little Wings (65 per cent of families).

"It has taken the stress out of travel and allowed our family to have more quality time together"

"Honestly I'm not sure how we would have survived without this transport service. It has considerably accelerated our entire family's emotional recovery through the two years our daughter received chemo and the follow up treatments."

"Without this help, our daughter's level of access to city-based, expert medical help would not have been possible. We will never know for sure, but the Little Wings service and wonderful, loving crew was one of the key catalysts for healing on many levels, and also offered considerable economic and psychological relief for our family during this time of significant stress. We continue to benefit from this service, which we also appreciate as we deal over the next 10-20 years with the economic and other tolls attributable to this taxing time. Our sincere thanks!"

The benefit of reduced stress around travelling has been estimated as the reduced mental health cost that may arise from the added pressures of long distance travel during an already difficult time. The improved emotional wellbeing and mental health of both children and parents can lead to reduced GP visits or visits to other health care professionals due to lower rates of stress, depression and anxiety. The improved emotional and mental health of parents and carers can also lead to increased productivity at work.

Table 3 Reduced time travelling benefits

Little Wings' reduced time travelling benefits	Estimated value p.a.
Reduction in parent and child mental health services due to reduced stress associated with travel	\$8,360
Avoided lost productivity at work due to reduction in parental and carer stress	\$209,125
Total	\$217,485

Source: PwC (2019)

Reduced financial burden

People living outside major cities are 17 times more likely to face location-based or financial barriers to receiving care for cancer compared to those who live in metropolitan areas.¹⁴ Little Wings supports families during treatment of a child's illness through a reduction in the associated financial burden with travel through the provision of transport services.

The survey identified that 85 per cent of families experienced a reduction in financial cost associated with travel. The costs associated with travel include:

- **the cost of operating cars:** this includes the basic running costs of a car, both fixed and operational such as depreciation, fuel and maintenance, and additional running cost from road conditions and speed fluctuations
- **the cost of accommodation if staying overnight:** this includes the per night cost of finding accommodation in Sydney and the ancillary costs involved, including food costs, parking costs and grocery costs
- **the cost of childcare:** this is the market cost of organising childcare arrangements for the families where the sibling usually stays home with a sitter or family member while their sibling travels for treatment. This can be a significant cost when families live particularly far from the metropolitan areas of Sydney and Newcastle and choose to stay in the cities over the period of treatment to avoid the high costs of frequent return visits to the hospital.

"We have only had to use the service once and it was amazing for our family and really took away the financial pressure"

"Less disruptions, less funds taken away from necessary payments"

"Little wings has taken away the stress of travel. Finding our way through Sydney traffic and the costs incurred with travelling. In earlier days of my daughter's treatment, we were travelling every third week, and she was often ill. This alleviated stress on her and the family".

Table 4 Reduced financial burden benefits

Little Wings' reduced financial burden benefits	Estimated value p.a.
Operating cost of a car	\$82,039
The cost of accommodation	\$131,204
Childcare costs	\$24,976
Total	\$238,219

Source: PwC (2019)

Volunteer time

The Little Wings' team of seven pilots are volunteers who offer their skills and services to fly the planes. Volunteer time is valued as a benefit because unpaid non-market activities are as important as paid activities in our economy. The value the team of pilots place on their time flying with Little Wings, and the benefit in well-being they internalise from volunteering, has been estimated using the opportunity cost of the pilot time.

¹⁴ Cancer Council (2017), Impact of financial costs of cancer on patients – the Australian experience, accessible at: <https://cancerforum.org.au/forum/2017/july/impact-of-financial-costs-of-cancer-on-patients-the-australian-experience/>

Table 5 Volunteer time benefits

Little Wings' volunteer time benefits	Estimated value p.a.
The value of volunteer time	\$234,641
Total	\$234,641

Source: PwC (2019)

Summary of quantified benefits

In 2019 Little Wings generated benefits worth \$974,000. The individual benefits, and the ones quantified, of Little Wings are summarised below.

Table 6 Summary of benefits

Benefits	Estimated value p.a.
Value of time saved due to reduced travel	\$234,847
Reduced cost of missing activities	\$48,974
Reduction in parent and child mental health services due to reduced stress associated with travel	\$8,360
Avoided lost productivity at work due to reduction in parental and carer stress	\$209,125
Operating cost of a car	\$82,039
Cost of accommodation	\$131,204
Childcare costs	\$24,976
Volunteer time	\$234,641
Total benefits	\$974,166

Source: PwC (2019)

3.2 Additional benefits delivered by Little Wings

There are a number of benefits provided by Little Wings which have not been quantified. These include:

- increased time with the whole family
- increased attendance at school of the child and their siblings
- increased effectiveness of treatment due to safer and faster travel
- increased social interaction for both the child and the parents and carers
- savings to the government.

Increased time with the whole family

Survey responses indicate that Little Wings plays a significant role in allowing families to stay together as much as possible, with 77 per cent of parents noting that through Little Wings, quality time with family has increased. This is a key reason why Little Wings is so highly regarded and appreciated by the families that use their service.

Increased attendance at school of the child and their siblings

The reduced travel time and reduced days away from home means that the children can miss fewer school days. This is also the case when their siblings have to travel with them during treatment. Around 45 per cent of children experienced fewer missed days at school due to the support from Little Wings. Research shows that there is marked difference in educational outcomes between high and low attendance of students, which in turn leads to differences in lifetime earnings¹⁵ – an increase in one standard deviation in NAPLAN test scores can lead to an increase in lifetime earnings by 14 per cent¹⁶.

Increased effectiveness of treatment due to faster and safer travel

Long distance travel when a child's immune system is weak can heighten the risk of infection and lead to lower health outcomes.¹⁷ This is particularly the case when families have to travel by public transport to receive treatment. The fast and safe journeys to hospital provided by Little Wings ensures that the effectiveness of treatment is increased due to the lower physical burden of travel and lower infection risks.

Increased socialisation for the child and carers

Research shows that increased socialisation of cancer patients is proven to have a positive effect on survival and response to chemotherapy¹⁸ and solidarity through shared experiences provides support for families living with cancer. The survey identified that, 15 per cent of parents agreed that their children developed friendships with other Little Wings passengers and almost 28 per cent of parents felt that they themselves developed friendships through Little Wings.

Savings to the government

NSW Government provides a level of travel support to patients living rurally.¹⁹ These services are in high demand. The work of Little Wings alleviates some of the demand pressure by providing transport free of charge to families of severely ill children in rural NSW, opening up capacity for other NSW patients, including adults.

¹⁵ Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (2013), Student attendance and educational outcomes: Every Day Counts

¹⁶ Hanushek, E. (2009), The Economic Value of Education and Cognitive Skills

¹⁷ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2019), Preventing Infections in Cancer Patients, accessible at: <https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/dcpc/resources/features/preventinfections/index.htm>

¹⁸ National Institutes of Health (2017), Social interaction affects cancer patients' response to treatment, accessible at: <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/social-interaction-affects-cancer-patients-response-treatment>

¹⁹ NSW Government (2019), Travel Assistance (IPTAAS), accessible at: <http://www.enable.health.nsw.gov.au/services/iptaas>

Case Studies

Three families who made more than the average number of trips per year were chosen as case studies to demonstrate the value of Little Wings in situations where frequent trips to hospital are required to treat a child's illness. These families have been highlighted to show the extent of the potential benefit of Little Wings. Some families require Little Wings support for more than one year at a time. For example, one family took a total of 46 trips over the period between 2017 and 2019. The case studies below outline the differences in quantified benefits for families taking varied amount of trips, using three specified families as examples.

- Family A: One family who had a child with cancer made up to 23 flight journeys in 2019 alone. They received a total benefit of \$31,388 in 2019 from participating in Little Wings including approximately \$12,000 in reduced time away from home benefits, \$9,000 in improved wellbeing benefits and \$10,000 in reduced financial burden benefits. When considering their total benefits derived over a three year period, this equates to \$62,686.
- Family B: This family took 18 trips in 2019. The child, with cancer required many trips per year for extra treatment and maintenance appointments. Family B acquired approximately \$9,000 in reduced time away from home benefits, \$7,000 in improved wellbeing benefits and \$8,000 in reduced financial burden benefits. The total benefits received by the family in 2019 was \$24,582. Within a three year period, the same family made a total of 42 trips which contributed to \$57,241 in benefits.
- Family C: This required 17 Little Wings trips in 2019, with the benefits derived for this family from participating in Little Wings equated to \$23,221. The total benefit included \$9,000 in reduced time away from home benefits, \$6,000 in improved wellbeing benefits and \$7,000 in reduced financial burden benefits. The value of benefits derived over a three year period for this particular family equates to \$51,796.



3.3 What does this mean?

The economic benefit of Little Wings is estimated at \$974,000 each year, based on the current number of families being supported (105 families in 2019). This means that on average, Little Wings provides benefits of an estimated \$9,200 per annum to each family for each year they receive support. When considering costs, the Little Wings return on investment is at least 1.5.

However, these values only consider the benefits that have been quantified. It is complex to place a dollar value on some of the qualitative benefits discussed earlier including increased time with family, improved educational outcomes and cost savings to government. Beyond the monetary benefits, the value that Little Wings brings is the ability for families to stay together and support each other in one of the most difficult and traumatic times of their lives.

As Little Wings continues to grow and help more families in regional and rural NSW, it is expected that greater efficiencies and economies of scale will be realised, meaning that each dollar will go further, increasing the overall value that Little Wings can deliver.

"No human words describes the assistance provided by Little Wings to us, so thanks must be made for those people running this organisation, for their limitless support. We will always be indebted to both of them including the donors of this organisation."

"Little Wings provided much needed support to me and my child at a time of great need. I did not know how I was going to get us home and they were amazing."

"The whole trauma of this disease has helped to forge an even more resilient, gracious and patient child (who is now a young adult). The positiveness of the Little Wings service and crew has definitely had an enduring influence on our daughter's attitude and outlook on life. And now she is poised with many years ahead of her (hopefully) to contribute and render similar service to others, in the same vein as the wonderful team at Little Wings. Thank you!"

"Little Wings has been an integral part of our journey to recovery over the past three years. The economic, social and psychological dividends to us (and the wider society) are huge, and Little Wing's sponsors/supporters are to be highly commended for helping and keeping this wonderful service going."

We give thanks and acknowledgement to our Foundation Partner Clubs NSW and PwC for the preparation of this economic benefit report.

YOUR

JOURNEY



IS

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