

Bear Cottage corporate support

**Thank you for your interest in supporting Bear Cottage children's hospice.
You and your team can make a significant difference to the children and families we care for.**

About Bear Cottage

Bear Cottage is the only children's hospice in NSW and one of only three in Australia. It is a very special place that's dedicated to caring for children with life-limiting conditions and their families. At Bear Cottage we believe that life, however brief, should be enriched, enjoyed and celebrated. Ours is a home full of special moments and cherished memories. Here, life is for living.

Located in Manly on Sydney's Northern Beaches and established in 2000 by The Children's Hospital at Westmead, Bear Cottage provides respite care for children and young people with terminal and life-limiting illnesses and their families; end of life care for these children and bereavement support for families for as long as they need.

Bear Cottage achieves this by providing:

- a place to rest and receive practical support where daily tasks such as cooking and cleaning, as well as children's medical needs, are taken care of so that families are free to spend quality time together;
- a base for a much-needed family break;
- a home-like environment where children can experience a dignified death with the medical and emotional support required.



Volunteering at Bear Cottage is the most rewarding challenge and one I look forward to each year. It's hard work, physically and mentally, but worth every ache and sore muscle! Our team has a great time and we all work well together to meet our main objectives of putting smiles on so many faces and making a difference to a worthwhile cause.

Bianca Keys, Warner Bros



Bear Cottage is built like a large home, yet provides round-the-clock, specialist medical care, 24 hours a day.

The location of Bear Cottage at Manly ensures families and children can rest in tranquil surroundings with all the attractions and amenities of one of Sydney's traditional holiday destinations nearby.

Families do not pay to stay at Bear Cottage and it costs almost \$4 million per year to keep our doors open.

The role of a children's hospice

The role of a hospice is to enhance the quality of life for patients with a terminal or life-limiting illness and ensure that the time remaining for these children and their families is as rewarding and relaxing as possible. The needs of a child with a life-limiting illness are distinctly different to those of an adult. The period of terminal care is often much longer, the number of people affected by the child's illness is greater and respite care for the whole family is vitally important.

Bear Cottage resources

Care at Bear Cottage is provided around-the-clock by a skilled care team which includes: doctors, nurses, a social worker, play therapist, music therapist and art therapist.

Bear Cottage is the only children's hospice in the world to be affiliated with a children's hospital which means:

- a more sophisticated level of care can be provided than at any other children's hospice;
- 24-hour access to the knowledge and skills of world leading practitioners.



**The Sydney
children's
Hospitals Network**
care, advocacy, research, education

Bear Cottage facilities

Bear Cottage is a purpose-built, state-of-the-art facility filled with professional and caring staff and volunteers. It features:

- six individual children's rooms
- two family suites
- spa
- multi-sensory room
- multi-media/games room
- wheelchair accessible play areas
- parent's retreat and quiet area
- multiple play and relaxation areas
- sensory garden
- resident dog – a golden Labrador; called Frankie
- a kitchen, full-time chef and housekeeping staff.

The facts and figures

- Bear Cottage accepts children from all over Australia, but the majority of our children come from NSW.
- All children and young people under 18 years of age with a life-limiting illness can be referred to Bear Cottage regardless of where they receive their primary care.
- In the last year we have been able to care for more than 300 children with a life-limiting illness and 16 children have come to Bear Cottage for end-of-life care.
- Since opening in 2001, we have been able to support over 1000 families when they have needed us most.

How your organisation can get involved

We value the support that we receive from our corporate partners and want to engage in long-term, meaningful relationships where you are able to see the difference you are making, first hand.

For that reason, we encourage you to get involved with as many fundraising and volunteering events as you can throughout the year or alternatively you can hold your own event. Our Bear Cottage events include (but are not limited to):



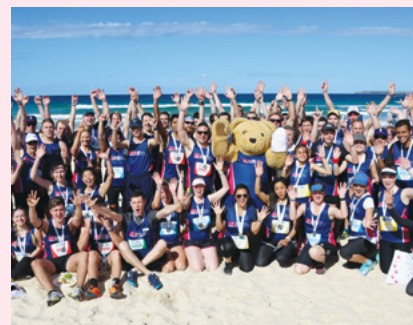
**Bear Cottage Open Day
(February)**



**Superhero Week
(July)**



**A Bear Affair Gala Ball
(August)**



**City2Surf
(August)**



**Pub2Pub
(August)**



**Christmas Wrapping Station
(December)**



**Corporate Working Bees
(by application)**



Information about Corporate Working Bees

We rely on over 100 of our own Bear Cottage volunteers to support our children, families and staff on a daily basis.

From time to time we also hold corporate volunteering days at Bear Cottage. Activities may include painting, sanding outdoor furniture, decorating the house at Easter and Christmas time, cleaning the toy cupboard or any number of other activities depending on the needs of the house at any given time.

To minimise the impact on the children and families we have staying with us, we hold one Working Bee per month with a maximum of 10 volunteers at a time. These days get booked up quickly and flexibility with available dates is required.

There is great demand for these days and we give priority to organisations who are supporting Bear Cottage financially.

Donation to Bear Cottage

Although Working Bees are hugely beneficial to Bear Cottage, there is always a cost associated with running days like these. This includes time spent by Bear Cottage staff to coordinate and supervise the day, food and beverages costs or the purchase of materials to ensure that projects can be completed.

For this reason we ask companies participating in Working Bees who are not financial supporters, to cover their costs in the form of a tax deductible donation of \$2500 for a group of 10 volunteers. Companies will be invoiced prior to the Working Bee and issued with a receipt upon payment.

Working with children

Our children are precious and we know that you will understand the importance of completing the form included at the end of this document. Once you have filled this out, please print it, sign it and bring it with you on the day of your Working Bee.

Insurance

Insurance for corporate volunteers attending a Working Bee at Bear Cottage is covered by their own employer's workers' compensation coverage. We ask that the employer confirms these details in writing prior to the start of the Working Bee.

What to bring on the day

You may be asked to do a variety of tasks on the day but in order to ensure your safety, we ask the following:

- wear closed toed shoes
- wear casual/appropriate clothing
- bring a hat
- wear sunscreen
- bring gardening gloves (if required).
- If you have any allergies, please make sure you alert Bear Cottage staff and take appropriate precautions.

Times

Your Working Bee may be for half a day or a full day (between 10am and 3pm) – depending on the task. This will be confirmed prior to the day.

Lunch

If your Working Bee is taking place over a full day, lunch will be provided. Unfortunately, we can't cater for special diets and we would ask you to supply your own lunch if there are special requirements.

Photography

We love to take photos of your group as a record of your day and post on our Facebook and LinkedIn pages, and for you to share these on your social media. Please advise if your group does not wish to have their photo taken. Please be aware that we do not allow photographs of the children and families staying with us at Bear Cottage.

Where we are

Our address is: **2 Fairy Bower Road, Manly.**

While there is on-street parking in Fairy Bower Road, there is a two hour time limit. It may be easier to car-pool or catch public transport. It is approximately a 15-minute walk from Manly Ferry.

Contact details

For any questions about a Bear Cottage Working Bee, please don't hesitate to contact **Bronwen Simmons** on **(02) 9976 8304** or email **bronwen.simmons@health.nsw.gov.au**

On behalf of the children and families of Bear Cottage, thank you for your support!



Bear Cottage corporate volunteer application form

Please complete the following form prior to commencing your corporate volunteering at Bear Cottage and bring the completed form with you on the day of your Working Bee.

Surname: _____ First name: _____

Address: _____

State: _____ Postcode: _____

Employer: _____

Employer's address: _____

State: _____ Postcode: _____

Phone number: _____ Mobile number: _____

Email address: _____

Date of birth: _____ Gender: _____

Identifying document

Please provide details for one kind of identification:

Passport number: _____ Issuing country: _____

Driver's licence number: _____ Issuing country: _____

If you have any queries regarding this form, please call Bronwen Simmons at Bear Cottage on (02) 9976 8304 or email: bronwen.simmons@health.nsw.gov.au