



**2023**



**BACK ON  
TRACK**

**IMPACT  
REPORT**

**BACKONTRACK.ORG.AU**

**WHEN A CHILD  
SURVIVES CANCER,  
THEIR HOPES AND  
DREAMS DESERVE  
TO SURVIVE TOO.**



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## OVERVIEW

---

Program Director's Message	02
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## ABOUT

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About Back on Track	05
Our Purpose, Vision & Mission	06
Governance	07
What We Do & How We Help	09
Why the Program is needed	11
What distinguishes Back on Track from other entities or services in children's health?	12
Areas we service	13

## IMPACT

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Our Impact	14
Short Term Impact	16
Long Term Impact	16
Wide Reaching Impact	17
How we create impact	18
How we measure impact	19
Impact Survey	20

## CASE STUDIES

---

Case Study #1 - Marley	22
Case Study #2 - Nova	25
Case Study #3 - Liam	28

## SUPPORT

---

Support overview	31
Families	32
Educational institutions	32
Charitable Organisations	33
Education Software Companies	33
Corporate Partnerships	34
Key Donors & Grants	34
Continuing your support	35

## FUTURE PLANS

---

Overview	36
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# MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

*I am thrilled to share our remarkable strides during our inaugural year at Back on Track. With unwavering dedication and a profound commitment to our mission, we have brought about a tangible and meaningful impact on the lives of children diagnosed with cancer in Western Australia.*



Through our meticulously crafted and tailored education program, we have provided support and assistance to children diagnosed with cancer and their siblings and parents. We are fostering a nurturing environment where they can thrive through education despite their challenges.

With immense pride, I announce that our efforts have not gone unnoticed, and the transformative outcomes we have witnessed are a testament to the strength of our

collective vision. From empowering educational initiatives to fostering a supportive community, our holistic approach has enabled us to touch the lives of these children in ways that extend beyond the confines of their medical journey. The resilience and courage displayed by these children have inspired us to push the boundaries of what is possible and create a positive, lasting impact on their lives.

to thrive. However, we recognise that reaching the regional and remote areas of Western Australia remains a challenge, and we believe no child should be disadvantaged by distance.

Our impact in this short period is a testament to the transformative power of collective action. With the incredible financial support of organisations like Cancer Australia and the Telethon 7 Trust, we have made significant strides. However, to ensure no child is left behind, we appeal for continued and increased support from our partners and the corporate community. Only with your unwavering assistance can we build upon this Foundation and continue to pave the way for a brighter, more promising future for these resilient children.

Thank you for being an indispensable part of our journey. Together, let us continue to pave the way forward and make a lasting difference in the lives of these remarkable young individuals.

Warm regards,

**Kylie Dalton**  
Program Director, Back on Track

**SUPPORTED**

**40 STUDENTS IN OUR FIRST YEAR.**

**ASSISTED**

**10 SIBLINGS IN OUR FIRST YEAR.**

**PROVIDED**

**16 LAPTOPS TO CHILDREN IN OUR FIRST YEAR.**

**CURRENTLY SUPPORTING**

**7 FAMILIES IN REGIONAL / RURAL & REMOTE AREAS.**

Our dedicated team, compassionate volunteers, and generous supporters have played an instrumental role in our journey; through their tireless efforts, we have made a meaningful difference. Together, we have cultivated an atmosphere of hope and optimism, allowing these children to envision a future filled with possibilities and opportunities despite the hurdles they face due to cancer treatment.

Reflecting on the milestones achieved during this first year, we are filled with gratitude and renewed determination to continue our mission with even greater enthusiasm. We remain committed to expanding our reach, enhancing our programs, and ensuring that every child affected by cancer in Western Australia finds the support and resources they need

# ABOUT BACK ON TRACK

*Imagine a program that empowers children who have battled cancer to reclaim their dreams and education.*



Imagine a program that empowers children who have battled cancer to reclaim their dreams and education. Back on Track is an education advocacy program for children affected by childhood cancer that understands the importance of holistic support. We believe that children who survive cancer deserve to have their hopes and dreams survive too. Our tailored approach focuses on building confidence and providing the necessary tools to help these children return to the educational path they would have achieved if cancer had not interrupted their lives.

Through personalised support, we work closely with each child, their siblings, their families, and their schools to address their unique needs. To ensure a well-rounded recovery, we offer academic tutoring, mentoring, emotional learning, and social integration programs. Our team of dedicated professionals, including teachers, tutors, and volunteers, are passionate about providing a nurturing and supportive environment where these children can flourish.

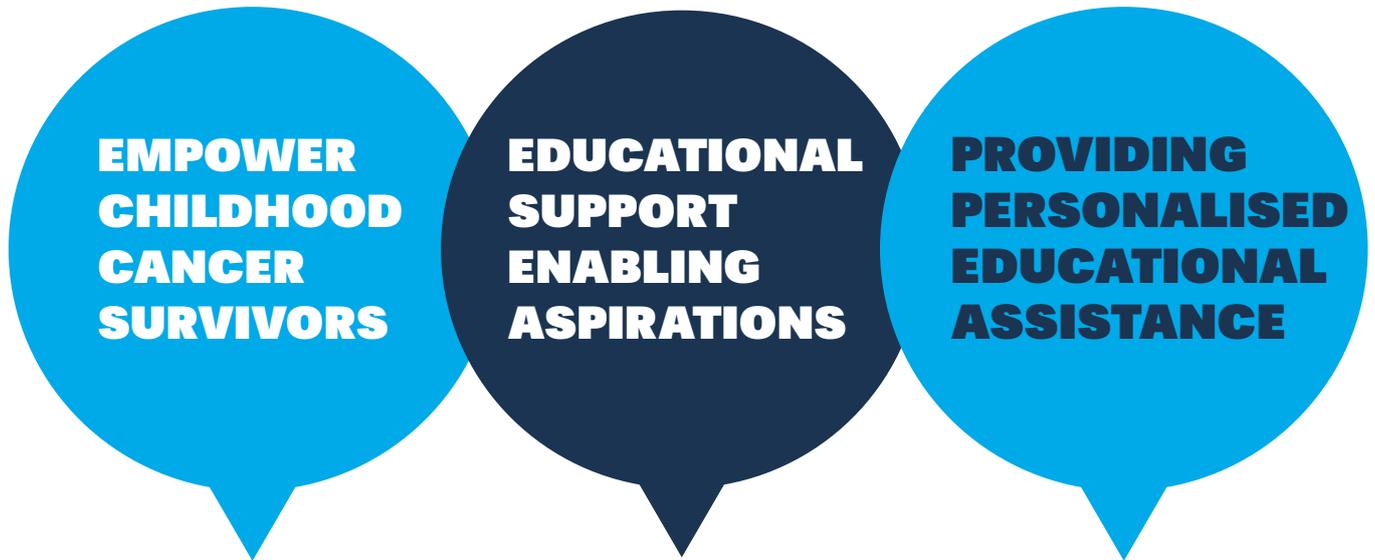
Back on Track recognises that education is not just about textbooks and exams but about

fostering a sense of normalcy, resilience, and self-belief. We help children regain their confidence, overcome challenges, and reach their full potential academically, emotionally, and socially. By providing a holistic approach, we aim to ensure these brave children can thrive and pursue their dreams, regardless of obstacles.

Join us in making a difference in the lives of these inspiring young individuals. Together, let's help them get Back on Track and let their hopes and dreams shine again.

# + Our Purpose, Vision & Mission

*Back on Track are dedicated to providing personalised educational assistance and resources to childhood cancer survivors and their families.*



## PURPOSE

To empower childhood cancer survivors by providing tailored educational support, fostering a sense of normalcy, rebuilding their confidence, and unlocking their full potential.

We believe every child deserves the opportunity to receive a quality education and be empowered to thrive despite any obstacles they may face.

## VISION

A world where childhood cancer survivors not only overcome their health challenges but also receive comprehensive educational support, enabling them to lead fulfilling lives and achieve their aspirations.

## MISSION

The Back on Track Education Program is dedicated to providing personalised educational assistance and resources to childhood cancer survivors and their families.

We aim to help these resilient individuals regain a sense of normalcy, rebuild their self-confidence, and develop the necessary skills to pursue their dreams. We believe, "When a child survives cancer, their hopes and dreams deserve to survive too."



# 25%

**OF CHILDREN WITH CHILDHOOD CANCER WILL EXPERIENCE AT LEAST 5 OR MORE LATE EFFECTS**



**CHILDREN WITH CANCER AND THEIR SIBLINGS MISS MORE SCHOOL AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES DUE TO INFECTION RISK.**

## + Governance

The governance structure under the Child Cancer Research Foundation (CCRF) initiative for the Back on Track Education Program can be outlined as follows:

- 01 Board of Management (BoM):** The governing body overseeing the strategic direction and overall operations of the Back on Track Education Program.
- 02 Executive Committee:** A subset of the Board of Management, the Executive Committee is entrusted with implementing the decisions made by the BoM. It comprises high-level executives and experts with specific responsibilities related to the program’s day-to-day management.
- 03 Advisory Council:** Comprised of distinguished professionals from diverse fields, the Advisory Council provides valuable insights, guidance, and expertise to ensure that the program’s activities align with best practices and remain relevant to the needs of childhood cancer survivors.
- 04 Program Director:** This role is responsible for the overall management and coordination of the Back on Track Education Program. The Program Director works closely with the Board of Management and the Executive Committee to effectively implement the program’s vision and mission.
- 05 Administrative Staff:** These individuals handle the administrative and logistical aspects of the program, ensuring smooth operations and efficient delivery of educational support services to childhood cancer survivors. They work closely with the Program Director and report to the Executive Committee.
- 06 Educational Support Team:** Comprising educators, tutors, and specialists in child development, this team provides tailored educational support to children participating in the program. They work directly with the children and their families, tailoring educational resources and assistance to meet each child’s specific needs.



MORE THAN

1000

CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS ARE DIAGNOSED WITH CANCER EVERY YEAR IN AUSTRALIA



“

**THE HEART OF BACK ON TRACK  
LIES IN ITS UNIQUE AND  
HOLISTIC APPROACH**



## + What We Do

A first of its kind in WA, the Back on Track program ensures children who go through cancer treatment and their siblings do not fall through the cracks with their education due to the enormous strain treatment can have on the entire family.

## + How We Help

The Back on Track WA team works with primary and high school students referred from Perth Children's Hospital Paediatric Oncology, Survivorship Teams, the School of Special Educational Needs: Medical and Mental Health, and several childhood cancer related charities and support groups.

Regardless of where they live, the Back on Track WA program provides the following services to children who have been diagnosed with and treated for cancer and their siblings:

- educational advocacy support during treatment if required;
- communication with the enrolling school and SSEN:MMH;
- mentoring, tutoring, social and emotional learning;
- in partnership with online education providers, such as 3P Learning and IG3 Education solutions, curriculum support for students in K-10;
- support for teachers/class members when the child is ready to return to school.
- support for siblings and parents;
- work with other childhood cancer agencies to create long-term solutions to any educational need for a Back on Track student tailoring individual support.

### **The heart of "Back on Track" lies in its unique and holistic approach.**

When a specialised education advocate is enlisted, they become a steadfast companion to the family at any stage of the child's cancer journey. Their overarching objectives include assisting the family in leveraging the resources of SSENH: MMH school during treatment and collaborating with the education team to offer supplementary support post-treatment. This comprehensive and personalised support doesn't solely focus on the students; it extends its reach to parents, classmates, and teachers. The aim is to construct a robust support system tailored to the unique needs of the family, seamlessly reintegrating them into the classroom environment.

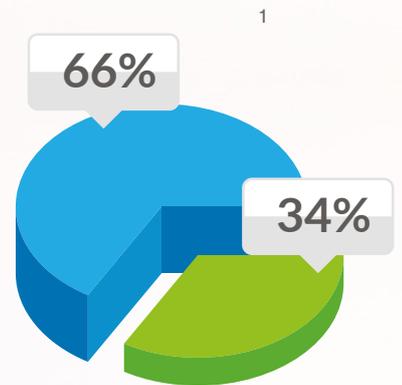
This holistic support doesn't just extend to the patients; it envelops parents, classmates, and teachers, ensuring a seamless transition back into the classroom environment.

“ Research shows regular education for children while on cancer treatment results in better quality of life ten years later.



**IN WA, 125 CHILDREN ARE DIAGNOSED WITH CANCER EVERY YEAR.**

“ Children with Cancer need a supportive and nurturing environment to be able to reconnect with school.



**66% OF PARENTS REPORT THEIR CHILDREN WILL EXPERIENCE CONCENTRATION ISSUES AFTER CANCER TREATMENT.**



# + Why the Back on Track Program is needed

The need for the Back on Track program is supported by evidence derived from extensive research, consultations with families, children who have undergone cancer treatment, adults who had cancer as children, and support organisations:

## Educational Challenges and Physical Health

- The intersection of physical health challenges and educational gaps presents a unique obstacle for these children, as they must contend with the academic catch-up and the physical limitations that affect their ability to participate in educational activities fully.
- Limited awareness and understanding of the specific educational needs of children with cancer within the education system contribute to a lack of targeted support. It is crucial to address these gaps and provide specialised assistance for these students during and after their treatment.

## Psychosocial Impact

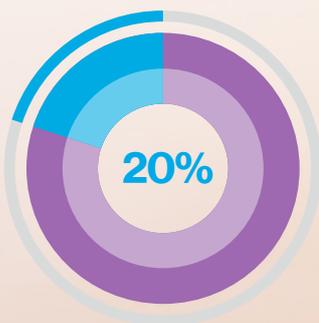
- A substantial proportion of children and adolescents undergoing cancer treatment are at risk of experiencing post-traumatic stress symptoms, which can significantly impact their emotional well-being and ability to engage in learning fully.
- Disrupted sleep patterns and poor sleep quality, often experienced by children during and after cancer treatment, can lead to increased fatigue, impaired concentration, and reduced cognitive functioning, contributing to additional barriers to learning and academic success.

## Impact on Physical Health

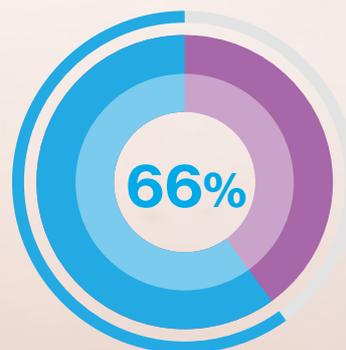
- Children undergoing cancer treatment experience a range of physical health challenges, including fatigue, compromised immune systems, and reduced physical stamina, which can hinder their ability to participate in regular school activities actively.
- Studies indicate that cancer treatments can lead to neurocognitive deficits, impacting memory, attention, and overall cognitive abilities, which can further impede their academic progress and engagement in the classroom.
- Hearing loss resulting from specific cancer treatments poses a significant challenge, affecting communication, social interactions, and the overall quality of the educational experience for these children.

## Lack of Support

The research identified significant gaps in support services available for children undergoing cancer treatment in the education system. There was a consensus among respondents that having an advocate supporting a child’s educational needs during treatment would have significantly improved their education levels post-treatment.



**20% OF ADOLESCENTS WILL EXPERIENCE POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS SYNDROME (PTSS)**



**TWO THIRDS OF CHILDREN WITH CANCER WILL EXPERIENCE AT LEAST ONE LONG TERM HEALTH RELATED LATE EFFECT AS A RESULT OF THEIR CANCER TREATMENT**

## + What distinguishes Back on Track from other entities or services in children's health

### Education Advocacy Focus

The program specifically advocates for children's education during and after cancer treatment. It recognises the critical role of education in a child's development and works to bridge the gap and support their educational journey.

### Tailored Support

Back on Track provides personalised educational support to children based on their individual needs. It offers mentoring, tutoring, and curriculum support, ensuring the assistance is tailored to each child's specific requirements.

### Collaboration and Partnerships

The program actively collaborates with schools, online education providers, charities, support groups, and medical teams. This collaborative approach ensures a holistic and coordinated support system for the children, involving various stakeholders in their education and well-being.

### Technological Solutions

Back on Track leverages technology and online education platforms to reach children in remote and regional areas. This enables them to receive educational support regardless of their geographical location, addressing the unique challenges faced by Indigenous children and those in remote areas of Western Australia.

**These unique characteristics make the Back on Track program essential in addressing the educational needs of children who have survived cancer.**

By focusing on education advocacy, providing tailored support, collaborating with stakeholders, and utilising technology, the program offers a comprehensive and distinct approach to supporting these children's health and educational outcomes.



# + Areas we service

The Back on Track program assumes a critical role in supporting children who have undergone cancer treatments in rural, regional, and remote areas, as exemplified by our teachers' visits across Western Australia. Our dedicated teachers have personally visited families in the Perth Metropolitan area, Peel, South West, Great Southern, Pilbara, Kimberley, Goldfields-Esperance, and Wheatbelt. These young survivors often confront unique challenges related to their health, education, and overall well-being. By extending its services to these distant communities, the program addresses the immediate needs of these resilient children and plays a vital role in fostering their educational and personal development.

The outreach initiative ensures that these young survivors and their families receive the necessary resources and assistance to successfully navigate the post-treatment education phase. In doing so, Back on Track contributes significantly to promoting inclusivity, empowering these children to overcome hurdles, access quality education, and thrive despite the geographical constraints they may face.

In 2024, Back on Track is poised to expand its impact further, exemplifying its unwavering dedication to reaching every corner of the state. The program will extend its services and reach into the West and East Kimberley region, marking a significant step in ensuring that all children, regardless of their location, can rebuild their lives and futures after battling cancer. This expansion underscores the program's commitment to inclusivity and its mission to support young survivors and their families in even the most remote areas of Western Australia. Back on Track's continued efforts to broaden its reach reflect a steadfast commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of those who need it most.



## LEGEND

- Currently Servicing
- Rolling out in 2024

# OUR IMPACT

*In the realm of childhood cancer, the courage of young children shines through as they confront the unfathomable challenges of the disease and its aftermath.*



In Australia alone, every year witnesses the valiant struggle of countless children, with childhood cancer remaining the leading cause of death among children aged 1-14 (Cancer Council Australia).

For those who survive, the journey doesn't end with remission, as over 60% of survivors grapple with chronic health issues post-treatment (Children's Cancer Institute).

In this battle for normalcy and restoration, the Back on Track Education Program serves as a beacon of hope, illuminating the path towards academic recovery and emotional healing. Guided by tailored educational support, these resilient young people find solace in rediscovering the joys of learning, reclaiming their stolen childhoods, and rekindling the flicker of dreams that cancer tried to extinguish. With each success story, we witness the transformative power of compassion and perseverance, nurturing a generation of survivors who refuse to be defined by their hardships but instead choose to author their own tale of triumph and resilience.

**THE BACK ON TRACK PROGRAM HAS THE POTENTIAL TO CREATE A RIPPLE EFFECT, SPREADING AWARENESS, EMPATHY, AND SUPPORT THROUGHOUT THE WIDER COMMUNITY.**

The Back on Track program directly impacts the lives of disadvantaged, sick, and vulnerable children by providing them with crucial educational support during and after their cancer treatment.

The expected short and long-term outcomes of the program are outlined in the pages that follow.

# PROVIDING CRUCIAL EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT BEFORE & AFTER TREATMENT.



## + Short Term Impacts

### Improved Educational Continuity

The program aims to ensure that children in treatment do not fall behind in their education. The short-term outcome is providing immediate support and resources to help these children keep up with their studies and minimise learning gaps during treatment.

### Enhanced Well-being

The program promotes overall well-being by addressing the educational needs of children who have survived cancer. It helps them regain a sense of normalcy, social interaction, and purpose, reducing the psychological impact of their cancer experience.

### Increased Parental Confidence

The program provides parents with a support system and resources to navigate their child’s educational journey during and after treatment. This increases parental confidence in advocating for their child’s educational needs and maintaining a positive parent-school partnership.

## + Long Term Impacts

### Improved Academic Achievement

The program’s long-term outcome is to support children in reaching their educational potential despite the challenges they faced during cancer treatment. The program aims to improve these children’s academic achievement in the long run by addressing learning gaps, providing mentoring, tutoring, and curriculum support.

### Enhanced Social Integration

The program aims to help children successfully reintegrate into the school environment and foster positive relationships with peers and teachers. The long-term outcome is to promote social integration, acceptance, and positive interactions within the classroom, leading to improved social skills, self-esteem, and a sense of belonging.

### Increased Future Opportunities

By ensuring educational continuity, the program aims to provide children with the Foundation to pursue their future goals and aspirations. The long-term outcome is to increase their opportunities for higher education, career paths, and overall life success despite their cancer experience.



Regular education for children while on cancer treatment results in better quality of life ten years later.



**50% OF CHILDRENS WILL BE ABSENT FOR OVER 6 MONTHS AFTER A CANCER DIAGNOSIS.**



Children with cancer report social difficulties and bullying when they return to school.



**POST TREATMENT SURVIVORS OF CANCER AND THEIR SIBLINGS MISS TWICE AS MUCH SCHOOL AS SAME AGE CHILDREN.**



Children undergoing cancer treatment experience significant isolation & disconnection from school.



## + Wide Reaching Impact

The Back on Track program has the potential to indirectly affect a significant number of children beyond those directly enrolled in the program. While the exact number will depend on various factors, here are some ways in which the program can have an indirect impact:

### Peers and Classmates

When a child who has undergone cancer treatment returns to school, their presence and experiences can raise awareness and understanding among their peers and classmates. This increased awareness can promote empathy, inclusion, and support for children with similar health challenges. As a result, the program's impact extends to the classmates who indirectly benefit from a more compassionate and inclusive school environment.

### Siblings and Family Members

The effects of childhood cancer and its treatment extend beyond the diagnosed child to their siblings and other family members. By providing educational support and resources to the child with cancer, the program indirectly eases the burden on their siblings and family members, reducing stress and facilitating a more supportive family environment.

### Teachers and School Staff

Back on Track's engagement with schools and its support for children who have survived cancer indirectly affects the teachers and school staff involved in their education.

The program provides resources, guidance, and strategies to help teachers support the child's educational needs and address their unique challenges. By equipping teachers with knowledge and tools, the program indirectly improves the educational experience for all children in the classroom, fostering a more inclusive and supportive learning environment.

### Community Awareness

Through its outreach efforts, the program raises awareness about the challenges faced by children who have survived cancer and the importance of supporting their educational needs. This increased community awareness can lead to a broader understanding of childhood cancer and its impact, potentially influencing policies, programs, and resources that benefit all children facing health challenges.

While the precise number of children indirectly affected cannot be determined, the Back on Track program has the potential to create a ripple effect, spreading awareness, empathy, and support throughout the wider community.

By fostering inclusive environments and promoting understanding, the program indirectly benefits numerous children who may encounter health challenges or face adversity in their educational journeys.



## + How we create impact

The Back on Track Education Program creates impact through several key strategies and initiatives:



### Tailored Educational Support

The program provides individualised educational support tailored to the specific needs of childhood cancer survivors. Offering personalised learning plans, tutoring, and specialised educational resources helps these children bridge the gaps in their education caused by their illness and treatment.



### Psychosocial Support

Beyond academics, the program prioritises the emotional well-being of the children by providing a nurturing and supportive environment. Through counselling, peer support groups, and activities promoting self-expression, it helps children rebuild their self-confidence, cope with the psychological effects of their illness, and foster a sense of belonging.



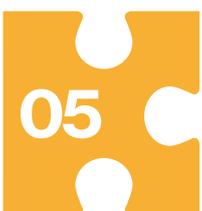
### Advocacy and Awareness

The program advocates for the unique educational needs of childhood cancer survivors within the broader educational system. Raising awareness among educators, policymakers, and the community creates a more supportive and inclusive educational environment for these children, ensuring they receive the understanding and assistance they require to thrive academically and socially.



### Collaboration with Healthcare Providers

By collaborating closely with healthcare providers, the program ensures a seamless integration of educational support with medical care. This integrated approach helps address the physical, cognitive, and emotional challenges the children face, enabling a comprehensive and holistic recovery process.



### Long-term Impact Monitoring

The program tracks the progress and long-term outcomes of the children it supports, assessing their academic achievements, emotional well-being, and overall quality of life. By monitoring and analysing this data, the program continuously refines its approach, ensuring that it remains effective and responsive to the evolving needs of childhood cancer survivors.

Through these comprehensive efforts, the Back on Track Education Program helps children bridge the educational gap caused by their illness and treatment. It empowers them to overcome psychological and emotional hurdles, enabling them to reclaim their childhoods and pursue their aspirations with confidence and resilience.

## + How we measure impact

Measuring the impact of the Back on Track Education Program involves a comprehensive approach that considers both quantitative and qualitative data. Here are some key methods and metrics for measuring impact:

### Academic Progress Monitoring

Tracking the educational advancements of participating children, including grades, test scores, and overall academic performance, provides quantitative evidence of the program's impact on their learning outcomes.

### Psychosocial Assessments

Conducting regular assessments of the children's emotional well-being, self-confidence, and social integration provides qualitative insights into the program's influence on their psychological resilience and overall quality of life.

### Feedback and Surveys

Gathering feedback from the children, their families, educators, and healthcare providers through structured surveys and interviews helps in understanding their experiences with the program, identifying areas of improvement, and capturing qualitative data on the program's effectiveness.

### Long-Term Follow-up Studies

Conducting longitudinal studies to track the progress of program participants over an extended period helps in assessing the sustainability of the program's impact on the academic, emotional, and social development of childhood cancer survivors.

### Partnership Evaluation

Assessing the collaborative efforts and partnerships with healthcare providers, educators, and support organisations can provide insights into the program's ability to create a cohesive support system for the children and contribute to the overall improvement of the ecosystem for childhood cancer survivors.

### Case Studies and Success Stories

Documenting and sharing individual success stories and case studies that highlight the program's transformative impact on the lives of participating children can provide compelling qualitative evidence of its effectiveness and efficacy.

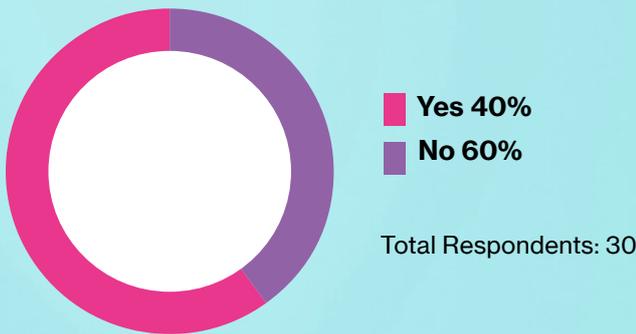
By integrating these diverse measurement methods, the Back on Track Education Program can gain a holistic understanding of its impact, identify areas for growth and enhancement, and continuously improve its services to serve the needs of childhood cancer survivors better.



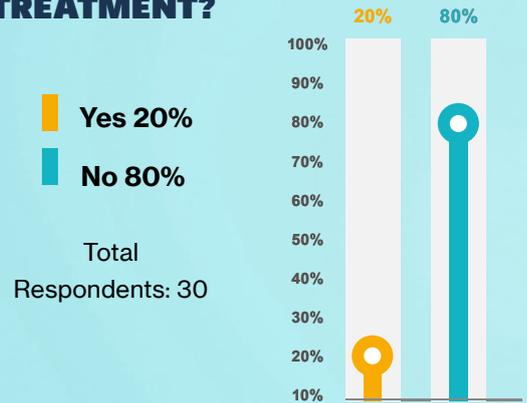
# IMPACT SURVEY

Recently commissioned to help improve our education advocacy service. Answers were provided by 30 families in the WA childhood cancer community. Some are currently using the Back on Track program.

## HAVE YOU ENROLLED YOUR CHILD OR CHILDREN IN THE BACK ON TRACK PROGRAM?



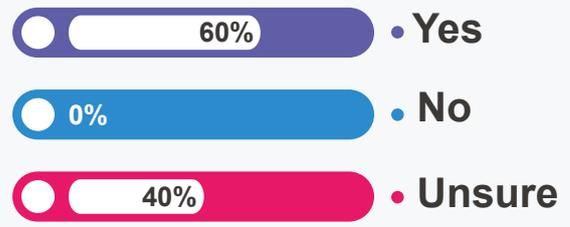
## IS YOUR CHILD CURRENTLY IN TREATMENT?



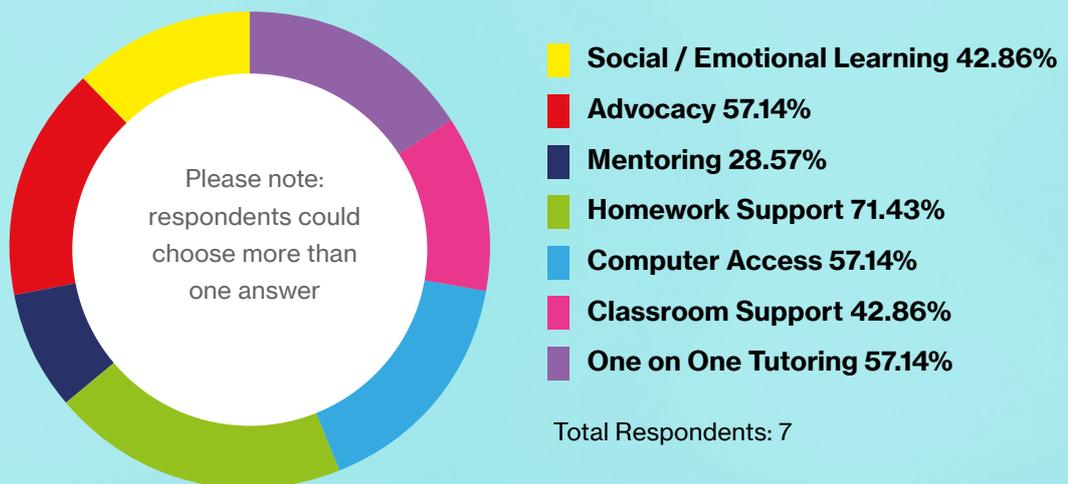
## HAS YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATIONAL ENGAGEMENT IMPROVED SINCE BEING ENROLLED IN THE BACK ON TRACK PROGRAM?



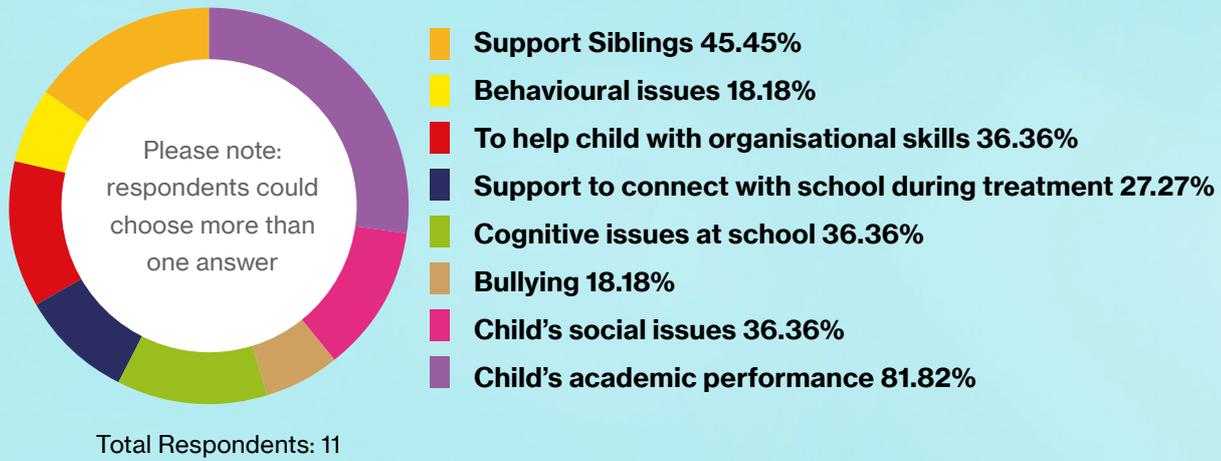
## HAS THE BACK ON TRACK PROGRAM IMPROVED YOUR CHILD'S EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING OR CONFIDENCE AT SCHOOL?



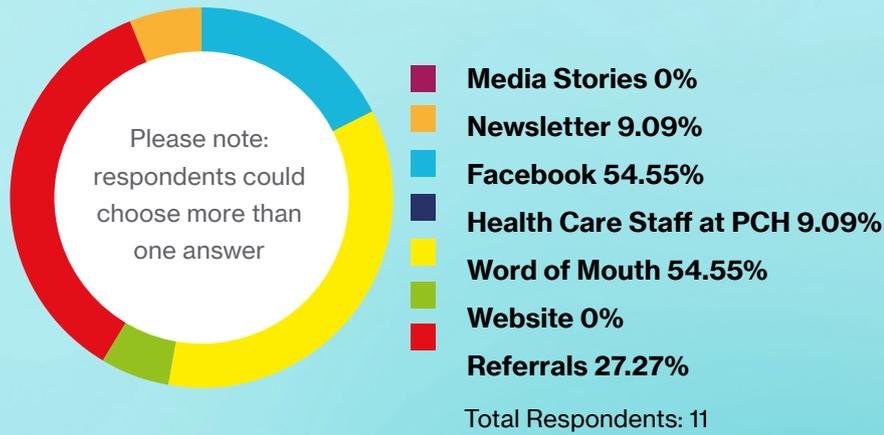
## WHICH BACK ON TRACK SERVICES HAS YOUR CHILD ACCESSED?



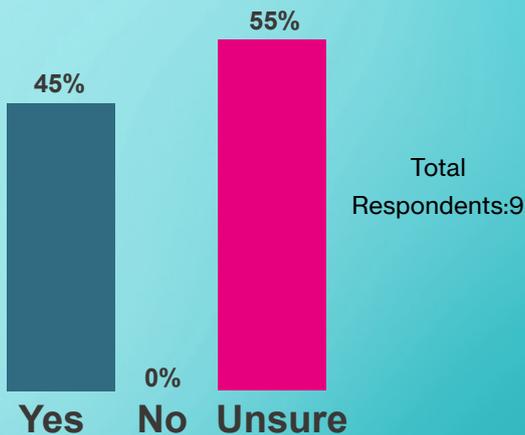
### WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO ACCESS THE BACK ON TRACK PROGRAM?



### HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE BACK ON TRACK PROGRAM?



### HAVE YOUR CHILD'S GRADES IMPROVED SINCE BEING ENROLLED IN THE BACK ON TRACK PROGRAM?



# CASE STUDY #1

## MARLEY

*For young Marley Brown, the dream of becoming a theoretical physicist or astrophysicist is now even more possible with the support of the Back on Track program.*

Diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia at 15 months old, Marley’s treatment impacted his development at kindy and well into his early primary school years. Now in year 9, Marley is armed with the resources and support he needs to feel empowered to succeed in the classroom, infinity, and beyond.

Watching her son struggle with neurocognitive side effects since primary school, mum Kerrin Hampson says she’s already seen the benefits of the program and believes the initiative will continue to help Marley find his confidence, feel supported and give him the structures he needs to succeed on his terms.

“This is the best Marley has been at school, ever. I really want to thank you and Back on Track WA. He’s always loved school, but this is completely different,” says Kerrin.

Fremantle College has proudly partnered with Back on Track WA to support Marley’s learning and achievement, which includes a STEM and engineering excursion to the East Coast in 2023. Thanks to a fully funded scholarship by the program. The Sydney Observatory, CSIRO discovery centre, and the Canberra Deep Space Centre were on the trip’s itinerary.

Marley’s thirst for science began with his interest in cancer research early on and has since evolved over time.

Gifted and Talented Coordinator at Fremantle College, Susan Fahey, says, “Marley responds to every challenge with a smile and a good sense of humour. He has set himself goals for each of his subjects with the overarching goal of improving his study skills, organisational skills, and focus.”

**MARLEY HAS PAVED THE WAY FOR FUTURE PARTICIPANTS OF THE BACK ON TRACK WA PROGRAM.**

His story serves as an inspiration to other children who encounter academic obstacles from their cancer treatment, reminding them that with the right resources and support systems, they too can achieve their goals and thrive academically.



90%

10%

**90% OF PARENTS INDICATE THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO BE PROVIDED WITH MORE INFORMATION ABOUT EDUCATION & CHILDREN’S CANCER**

“The 5 year survival rate for childhood cancer is increasing, so more children are living with cancer.”



## CHALLENGES

Marley faced several challenges, including the assumption that being in the Gifted and Talented Program meant he didn't require additional tutoring.

His coping skills, developed over years of managing the neurocognitive side effects of his childhood treatment, were already extensive. Additionally, Marley's exceptional intelligence posed its own set of challenges.



### CASE STUDY

Transforming Marley's educational experience with the Back on Track Program

### OVERVIEW

Marley Brown, a 14-year-old aspiring theoretical physicist or astrophysicist, has found renewed hope and support through the Back on Track WA (BOTWA) program. Despite being diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia at just 15 months old, Marley's passion for science and STEM subjects has driven him to excel academically.

Currently enrolled in the Gifted and Talented Program at Fremantle College, Marley's journey with BOTWA began later in his academic career, providing him with essential resources and support to overcome the challenges posed by his cancer treatment.

## ACTION

The Senior Educational Advocate at BOTWA took a personalised approach to address Marley's specific needs. Collaborating closely with Marley's teachers and the Gifted and Talented Coordinator, the advocate focused on enhancing Marley's study habits and time management skills.

Recognising the impact of cancer treatment on Marley's executive functions, such as memory, organisation, and time management, the advocate developed tailored strategies to mitigate these challenges.





## SOLUTION

To support Marley’s academic success, the advocate implemented various solutions. Scaffolding assignments, including layout and information organisation, became a crucial strategy.

Additionally, a scholarship was provided to ensure Marley could participate in an interstate STEM and Engineering Excursion, further nurturing his passion for science.

## IMPACT

Beyond Marley’s personal growth, his involvement in BOTWA had a broader impact. It not only supported his older brother but also served as an inspiration for other children facing academic obstacles due to cancer treatment. Marley’s story highlighted the availability of additional support, instilling hope in families navigating similar challenges.



## RESULTS

Through the collaborative efforts of Marley, BOTWA, and his educational support team, Marley’s academic journey saw remarkable improvements. His story serves as a testament to the program’s efficacy and its potential to positively impact the lives of children overcoming academic obstacles post-cancer treatment.

### THE BACK ON TRACK PROGRAM HAS PROVIDED

**4** SCHOLARSHIPS IN OUR FIRST YEAR.

## BENEFITS

Marley experienced a positive shift in his academic performance and attitude toward schooling. The support provided by BOTWA outside of his family dynamics made him feel freer and more relaxed.

The STEM excursion’s scholarship fed Marley’s scientific curiosity and contributed to his overall engagement in his academic future.

## SUMMARY

Marley’s resilience, coupled with the tailored support from BOTWA, has transformed his educational experience. From overcoming challenges associated with cancer treatment to excelling in the Gifted and Talented Program, Marley’s story illustrates the transformative power of targeted assistance and its positive ripple effects on individuals and their communities.



# CASE STUDY #2

## NOVA

*Nova was diagnosed with Lymphoblastic Leukemia in March 2022 whilst only in Pre-Primary. Nova is still undergoing her treatment but is attending her Year One class at school as much as possible. She is looking to 'Ring The Bell' in May 2024.*

Nova has missed out on many school days, impacting her academically and socially. Missing out on time with her friends at Playtimes has significantly impacted Nova, and she has felt the loss keenly. Academically, she has lost pace with her peers and has struggled to keep up, or catch up with her classmates.

Back On Track was suggested to Nova's mum Claire earlier this year, and she felt lucky to get in-school support for Nova. Louise, Back on Track Program Manager and Educational Advocate, has been supporting Nova once a week.

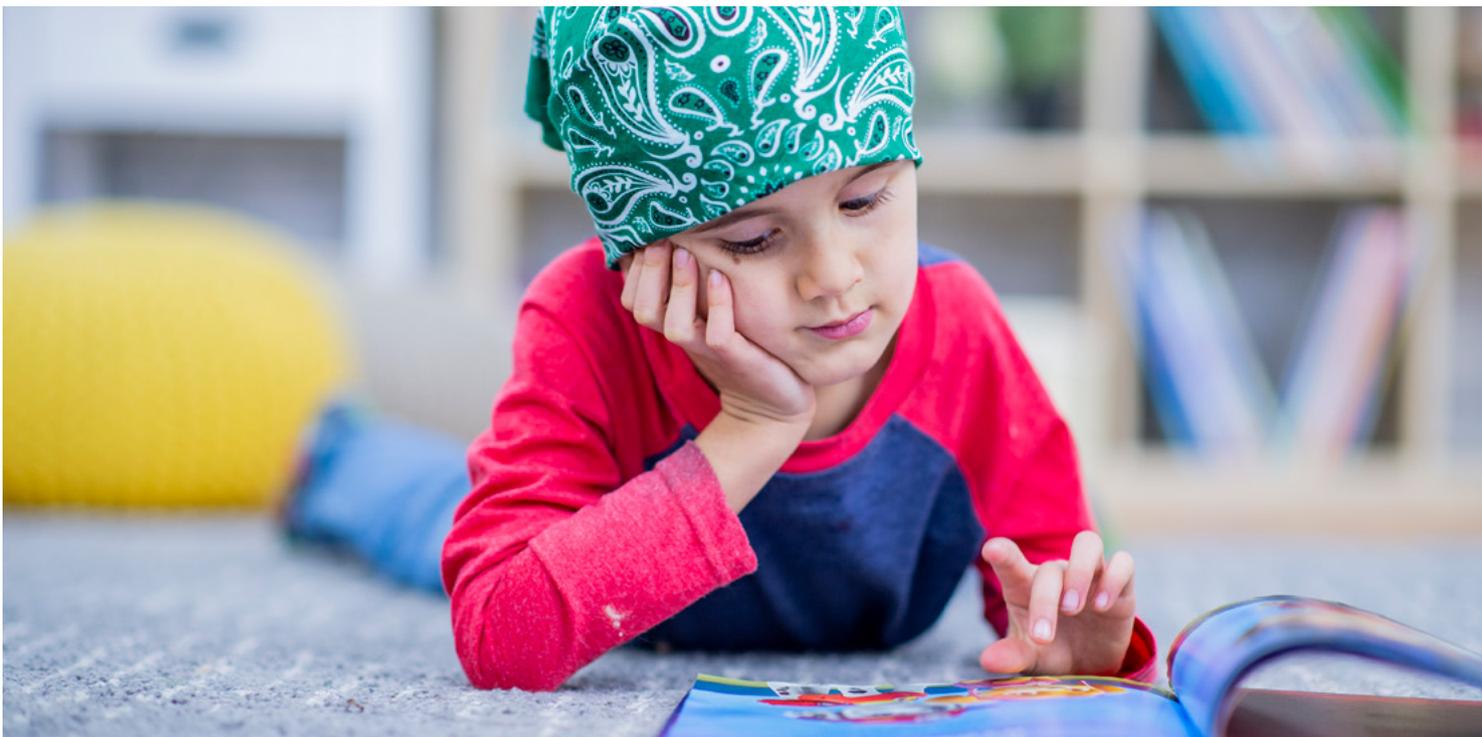
"Having Louise there to work with Nova has made a huge difference and given Nova more confidence. Nova loves meeting with Louise every week." Claire said.

Louise ensures the intervention/support is fun and engaging for Nova, incorporating great educational games and activities.

"We've definitely noticed a massive improvement in Nova's reading, and it's been great to have Louise support me when I was unsure how to help Nova progress."

**CLAIRE FEELS VERY CONFIDENT KNOWING THEY HAVE THE BACK ON TRACK BY THEIR SIDE, WITH ONGOING SUPPORT.**

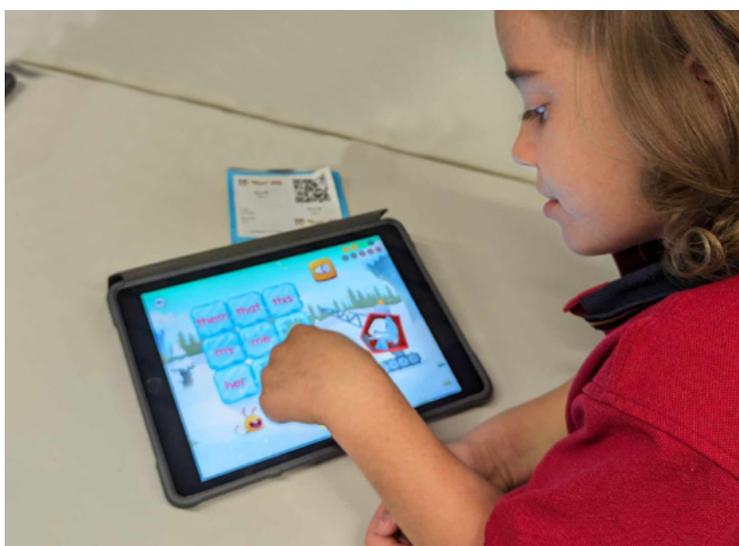
Cancer is a long journey, and it's hard enough, but knowing you have people who care and support you makes it so much easier. Thanks for the support Back On Track!



## CHALLENGES

Nova's battle with Lymphoblastic Leukemia presented several challenges:

- ☑ Attendance disruptions due to treatment schedules and associated impacts.
- ☑ Compounded educational setbacks from missed schooling during Pre-Primary and ongoing treatment in Year One.
- ☑ Development of avoidance techniques due to feeling out of sync with classmates.



### CASE STUDY

Empowering Nova's academic journey through the Back On Track WA Program

### OVERVIEW

Nova, diagnosed with Lymphoblastic Leukemia in March 2022 during her Pre-Primary year, embarked on a challenging educational journey with the added burden of cancer treatment.

The impact has been profound, affecting both her social interactions and academic progress. With continued treatment, Nova is now navigating Year One, determined to achieve the 'Ringing The Bell' milestone in May 2024. However, the journey has been marked by missed school days, social challenges, and academic struggles.

## ACTION

To address these challenges, the Back On Track WA program intervened during Term 3, 2023, providing weekly, in-school tutoring and support:

- ☑ Increased tutoring during school hours, including support within class and independent work with her Advocate.
- ☑ Collaborated with Nova's mother to provide additional resources for home-based learning.
- ☑ Ongoing communication with the school for a smooth transition into Year 2.





## IMPACT

Nova's participation in the BOTWA program has resulted in measurable progress:

- ☑ Enhanced phonics knowledge, transitioning from single sounds to digraphs and trigraphs, showcasing improved phonemic awareness.
- ☑ Increased reading proficiency, fostering a heightened eagerness to learn.
- ☑ Demonstrated progress in numerical understanding, contributing to confident participation in class activities.

## RESULTS

The tangible outcomes of Nova's involvement with BOTWA are evident:

- ☑ Improved sound-letter connection, reflected in spelling tests and in-class assessments
- ☑ Greater attendance leading to increased peer interactions and classroom engagement.
- ☑ Uptake in numerical understanding demonstrated through successful participation in whole-class activities.

## SUMMARY

Nova's journey with the BOTWA program underscores the transformative impact of additional support on a student facing significant health challenges.

Her phonics, reading, and numerical understanding progress demonstrates the effectiveness

of consistent, tailored educational interventions. As Nova continues to benefit from ongoing support and diverse learning opportunities, her story exemplifies the potential for academic growth and increased confidence, even in the face of formidable health obstacles.

The BOTWA program remains committed to guiding Nova's educational journey, ensuring she continues to learn, grow, and build confidence in her abilities. Everyone looks forward to Nova "Ringing the Bell" in May 2024.

## - :: SOLUTION :: -

The ongoing solution involves:

- ☑ Continued and increased support from both the school and the Back on Track WA Team.
- ☑ Building Nova's confidence through tailored activities and games that highlight her progress.
- ☑ Providing unwavering support and recognition for her efforts and achievements.



## - :: BENEFITS :: -

The implementation of the Back on Track WA program has yielded significant benefits:

- ☑ Increased parental confidence in Nova's extended school attendance.
- ☑ Improved peer interactions and heightened confidence in social settings.
- ☑ Recognition of Nova's high needs in a demanding classroom environment.

# CASE STUDY #3

## LIAM

*At the young age of seven, Liam received a diagnosis of Burkitt's Lymphoma, an uncommon and highly aggressive form of cancer.*

His medical journey began with a biopsy, which revealed that the cancer had progressed to Stage 3, with five tumours present in his abdomen. Recovering proved to be a challenging path for Liam. He faced kidney failure, requiring a period of time in the intensive care unit. Additionally, he endured a distressing five weeks without food when his bowels became obstructed, ultimately necessitating surgery.

During his battle with cancer, Liam lost six precious months of his childhood, as the hospital became his new dwelling. Unable to attend school and too ill to engage in any educational activities, he missed out on vital opportunities for learning and personal development.

Now, cancer-free Liam is ready to resume the sense of normalcy that he and his family cherished prior to his diagnosis. One essential aspect of this return to normalcy is ensuring Liam gets back on track with his academic journey.

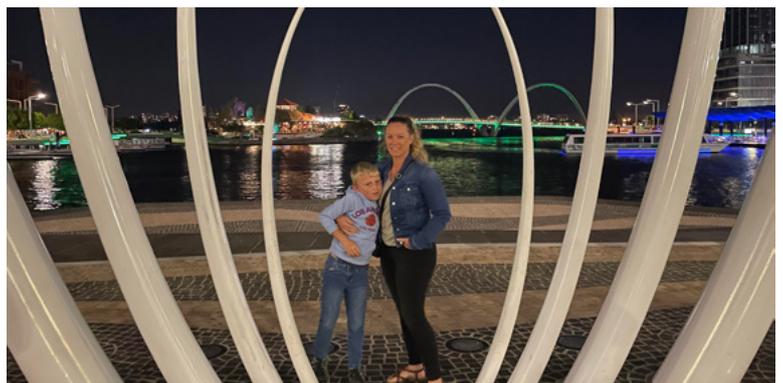
Fortunately, Liam is part of the incredible Back on Track program, facilitated by the Child Cancer Research Foundation. Through this program, Liam and his family have access to an amazing online educator who appears on his screen each week to help him with his schooling.

Back on Track addresses a notable gap in Western Australia's support system for children undergoing cancer treatment, providing them with the opportunity to make up for lost education. A childhood cancer diagnosis not only affects the diagnosed child but also has a profound impact on the entire family. Consequently, Liam's regular tutoring sessions not only benefit him but also offer much-needed support to his siblings, Kody and Kaylee. It acknowledges that they have also experienced a significant educational setback and deserve assistance to bridge the gap.

**THANKS TO BACK ON TRACK, LIAM DOESN'T HAVE TO MISS OUT ON EDUCATION EVEN WHEN HE'S UNABLE TO ATTEND SCHOOL.**

The program has become an integral part of his life, allowing him to continue his learning journey from the comfort of his home. Liam looks forward to his tutoring sessions every week, as they not only help him bridge the educational gap but also bring a sense of normalcy and routine back to his life.

Liam and his family are immensely grateful to Back on Track and the Child Cancer Research Foundation for their unwavering support both during and post his cancer treatment. The program has played a vital role in helping Liam and his siblings regain their academic footing and providing them with the educational opportunities they missed out on due to cancer.



## CHALLENGES

Liam encountered significant fatigue, a common challenge for cancer survivors, impacting his ability to engage in traditional tutoring methods.

After an extended period of electronic learning during his cancer treatment, he developed an aversion to online activities. Liam's academic performance, once at the top of his class, needed a unique approach to reignite his passion for learning.



### CASE STUDY

Liam started with the Back on Track WA Program not long after he had returned to a 'normal' school routine. He had missed over six months of school and his world as he had known it.

### OVERVIEW

Liam's educational journey with the Back on Track WA Program began as he re-entered a "normal" school routine after a six-month hiatus due to Burkitt's Lymphoma.

Having missed crucial months of school, Liam faced challenges in resuming his education and needed a tailored approach to bridge the educational gap.

## ACTION

The Back on Track WA Team took proactive steps to address Liam's challenges. Before transitioning to online tutoring, Liam met his tutor face-to-face, establishing a crucial relationship.

Personal connections were reinforced with visits to his family farm and the Back on Track WA office, ensuring a blend of online and in-person interaction. Tutoring sessions prioritised engagement, confidence-building, and a varied approach to keep Liam motivated.





## IMPACT

Liam's re-engagement at school and his efforts to reclaim his top position in the class showcased the program's success.

The solid relationship with his Advocate empowered Liam to communicate his needs, ensuring a balanced approach to learning. His inclusion in the program also extended benefits to his siblings, creating a ripple effect of academic support within the family.

## RESULTS

The tangible results of Liam's participation in the Back on Track WA Program are impressive. He advanced to the Year 4 level on Mathematics, excelled in in-class assessments, and demonstrated sustained engagement in his learning journey.

## SUMMARY

Liam's story reflects the transformative impact of the Back on Track WA Program on his academic progress and overall well-being. Beyond Liam, his siblings have also benefitted, highlighting the program's role in helping children regain academic footing and providing opportunities missed due to cancer-related challenges.

The comprehensive approach, blending online and in-person interactions, showcases the program's commitment to personalised and impactful education support for children like Liam and his family.

## -:: SOLUTION ::-

The tutoring sessions transformed to be engaging and enjoyable for Liam. Challenges and games were incorporated, turning learning into a weekly goal.

The initial engagement involved logic challenges and games, progressing to reading challenges and physical work using traditional materials like workbooks and printed items. This hybrid approach allowed Liam to use paper and pencil, steering away from excessive screen time.



## -:: BENEFITS ::-

The positive outcomes of Back on Track WA's intervention were noteworthy. Liam's confidence grew consistently, impacting all facets of his learning.

He developed a habit of reading nightly, embracing challenges to fuel his enthusiasm for learning. Liam's relationship with his education advocate became a crucial support system, offering flexibility on challenging days and emphasising the importance of emotional well-being alongside academic progress.



# SUPPORT

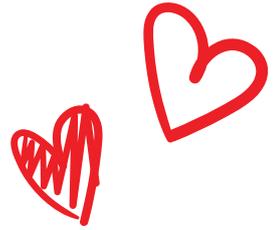
*Your support for this project is crucial as it endeavours to extend vital educational services to all children and families who have experienced the trauma of a childhood cancer diagnosis.*

*Tackling the geographically isolated areas, including Indigenous communities, ensures that all young cancer survivors and their families receive appropriate tailored support for rebuilding their lives.*

**“ IN ONE STUDY, LESS THAN 10% OF PARENTS REPORTED THAT THEY RECEIVED ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO SUPPORT THEIR CHILDREN WITH CANCER AT SCHOOL. ”**



## + Families



Our families play a pivotal role in the success and expansion of the Back on Track program, serving as passionate advocates and champions within their communities. By sharing their personal experiences and the program’s positive impact on their children’s lives, they inspire and encourage other families facing similar challenges to utilise our services.

Through heartfelt testimonials, community outreach initiatives, and participation in awareness campaigns, our families amplify the program’s reach, fostering a supportive network that empowers more childhood cancer survivors to access tailored educational support.



## + Educational institutions

Collaborating effectively with partner organisations is paramount to the success and sustainability of the Back on Track Education Program. By fostering strong relationships with healthcare providers, educational institutions, SSENH: MMH, and support organisations, we ensure a comprehensive and integrated support system for childhood cancer survivors. Working in synergy with healthcare providers enables us to align our educational interventions with the unique medical needs of the children, facilitating a holistic approach to their recovery and overall well-being.

Partnering with educational institutions allows us to advocate for inclusive and accommodating learning environments, promoting a culture of understanding and support for students facing health-related challenges. Moreover, collaborating with support organisations enhances our ability to leverage resources, share best practices, and expand our outreach, thereby maximising the program’s impact and fostering a wider support network for these resilient young individuals and their families. Together, we can create a unified front dedicated to nurturing the academic, emotional, and social growth of childhood cancer survivors, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to thrive and fulfil their potential despite the challenges they may face.

## + Charitable organisations

Partnering with other child cancer charities is crucial to our mission at the Back on Track Education Program. By collaborating with like-minded organisations, we can combine our resources, expertise, and collective efforts to create a more robust support system for childhood cancer survivors.

Through strategic partnerships with these charities, we can enhance our capacity to provide comprehensive educational support, share valuable insights and best practices, and ensure that our services are seamlessly integrated with the broader spectrum of assistance available to these children and their families. By fostering these partnerships, we not only amplify the reach and impact of our initiatives but also contribute to a more cohesive and united front in the fight against childhood cancer, fostering a community of mutual support, resilience, and hope for every child on their journey to recovery and academic success.



## + Education software companies



The Back on Track Education Program thrives through impactful partnerships with various education software companies. These collaborations are integral to the success of our students' learning journeys. Without the support of organisations like 3P Learning, Campion Education Solutions, OLNAWA, and IG3 Education, our families would lack the essential resources needed to bring their children back to a level playing field with their peers.

For a child who has experienced significant gaps in their education due to medical treatment, the importance of comprehensive support cannot be overstated. Back on Track takes pride in aligning with forward-thinking organisations like 3P Learning, Campion Education Solutions, OLNAWA, and IG3 Education, recognising that these partnerships play a pivotal role in providing the necessary tools and resources for these students to bridge the educational gap effectively.

## + Corporate Partnerships

As a corporate partner, your support will be acknowledged in our program materials, website, and social media platforms. We will work closely with your team to highlight your commitment to community impact, showcasing your organisation's values and dedication to children's health and education.

Our partnership can make a lasting difference. Investing in the Back on Track Education Program will empower children to overcome challenges, pursue dreams, and create a brighter future. Join us in this journey to transform lives and build a stronger, more inclusive community.

Let us forge a future where health challenges compromise no child's education, their return to the classroom is a triumphant journey, and a community of support stands unwaveringly by their side. Join us in building brighter futures—because every child's potential deserves to shine.

## + Key Donors & Grants

### Australian Government Cancer Australia

The Back on Track WA project is a Cancer Australia Supporting People with Cancer grant initiative funded by the Australian Government. This seed funding has played a transformative role in laying the foundation for the program, enabling the implementation of vital educational support systems tailored to the specific needs of childhood cancer survivors. With the backing of this grant, the program has not only been able to establish its core framework but has also demonstrated its potential to significantly impact the educational trajectories and overall well-being of these resilient young individuals.



**Australian Government**  
**Cancer Australia**

### Telethon

For over half a century, Telethon has been instrumental in transforming the lives of sick, vulnerable, and disadvantaged children across Western Australia, providing crucial aid, equipment, and funding for medical research into childhood diseases. Thanks to Telethon's generous support of the Back on Track WA program, significant strides have been made in seamlessly aiding childhood cancer survivors to reintegrate into education post-treatment in its inaugural year. The initiative has successfully provided tailored educational resources and support, ensuring these children do not face academic setbacks due to health challenges. This funding has not only bolstered the program's resources but has also served as a beacon of hope, reaffirming the commitment towards the educational well-being of these young survivors. Thanks to the unwavering backing of Telethon, the aspiration for more children to achieve their full educational potential is swiftly transitioning from a long-awaited vision to a tangible reality.



### Stan Perron Foundation

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Stan Perron Foundation for their invaluable support, enabling the Back on Track WA program to expand its reach to the most remote regions of Western Australia. Their unwavering commitment has been instrumental in ensuring that children who have undergone cancer treatment in these areas do not miss out on the vital educational opportunities they rightfully deserve. The impact of their generosity resonates deeply within these communities, underscoring their profound dedication to the educational well-being of every child, regardless of their geographical location.



**STAN PERRON**  
**CHARITABLE**  
**FOUNDATION**

## + Continuing your support

Investing in an education advocacy program, such as Back on Track, that facilitates the seamless reintegration of childhood cancer survivors into their classrooms is a profound commitment to the future of every Australian child, regardless of their health challenges.

A cancer diagnosis should not curtail a child's access to education and the opportunity to envision a promising future. By providing crucial financial support to Back on Track, we can ensure that young individuals facing an undetermined future are equipped with the necessary resources and guidance to pursue their educational aspirations despite the hurdles they face.

Notably, the remarkable success stories of numerous children in Western Australia who have triumphed in their academic pursuits despite the setbacks endured during treatment stand as a testament to the transformative power of continued educational support.

**JOIN US IN FOSTERING A  
FUTURE WHERE EVERY CHILD,  
IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR HEALTH  
JOURNEY, CAN DARE TO DREAM  
AND ACHIEVE THEIR FULLEST  
POTENTIAL THROUGH THE  
ENDURING GIFT OF EDUCATION.**



# FUTURE PLANS

In 2024, Back on Track is embarking on a transformative journey to broaden its impact and extend its vital services to the West and East Kimberley region's remote and regional areas, including Indigenous communities. This ambitious endeavour is a testament to the program's steadfast commitment to leaving no stone unturned in its mission to empower and uplift young cancer survivors and their families throughout Western Australia.

The expansion plan will be preceded by a meticulous scoping study and a comprehensive exploration of strategies and methodologies to deliver the program to these geographically isolated communities effectively. The study will consider the unique challenges and opportunities of the remote and regional landscapes, recognising the need for culturally sensitive and community-specific approaches. Back on Track recognises the diversity within Indigenous communities and aims to tailor its program to cater to the distinctive needs of each group, ensuring that it aligns seamlessly with their cultural contexts.

The scoping study will collaborate with local leaders, community representatives, and health professionals to gain invaluable insights into the nuances of delivering support in these areas. It seeks to establish sustainable frameworks that address the immediate challenges faced by young survivors and contribute to the long-term well-being of the communities involved.

By venturing into the West and East Kimberley region, Back on Track aims to break down the barriers that distance imposes on access to crucial resources and support services. This expansion represents more than just a geographical outreach; it symbolises a profound dedication to inclusivity, affirming that every child, regardless of their location, deserves the opportunity to rebuild their life and future after the harrowing experience of battling cancer.

Back on Track's commitment to reaching even the state's most remote corners echoes its core values of compassion and resilience. The program envisions a future where no young survivor or their family is left without the support they need to navigate the challenges of life after cancer. This expansion is a significant stride towards realising that vision, embodying the organisation's unwavering resolve to make a positive and lasting difference in the lives of those who need it most.



**BACK ON TRACK HAVE A  
STEADFAST COMMITMENT TO  
EMPOWER AND UPLIFT YOUNG  
CANCER SURVIVORS AND  
THEIR FAMILIES.**



*“We envision a future where no young cancer survivor or their family are left without the support they need to navigate the challenges of life after cancer, regardless of where they live.”*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Dalton'.

**KYLIE DALTON**

Back on Track Program Director



A Child Cancer Research Foundation Initiative



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