



**PAYCE**<sup>®</sup>  
**FOUNDATION**  
*transforming lives*

## MENTAL HEALTH AND DISABILITY



**Long term disadvantage and misfortune can lead to a range of complex individual and societal issues that can become chronic and further affect the individual's quality of life and the realisation of their potential.**

### AUSTRALIAN KOOKABURRA KIDS

The Australian Kookaburra Kids Foundation (Kookaburra Kids) supports children living in families affected by mental illness. They offer recreational, educational camps and other activities, giving children a break in a fun and supportive environment. Kookaburra Kids camps give children the opportunity to learn about mental illness and how it can affect families and relationships; share their experiences with children in similar situations and develop their coping strategies and resilience.

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Australian  
**Kookaburra Kids**  
Foundation



**IMPROVED  
CAPACITY FOR  
CHOICE FOR  
INDIVIDUALS WITH  
MENTAL ILLNESS  
AND DISABILITY**

In addition to the provision of funds for operating expenses and capacity building, the **PAYCE Foundation** works closely with the Kookaburra team to identify additional partnership opportunities.

In 2017 Kookaburra Kids launched Taking Flight with the PAYCE Foundation as a founding member. Taking Flight is a mentoring program for graduating children of the core program who are in need of guidance and support as they approach the end of school and have to make decisions about their future. The program, co-designed with the beneficiary group, aims to build employable, resilient and confident young people who are not disadvantaged by their family's experience of mental illness.

The PAYCE Foundation has also supported Kookaburra Kids through volunteering. Kookaburra Kids camps and activity days can only happen with the assistance of volunteers. PAYCE has sent staff along to a number of activity days to provide supervision and support. PAYCE staff members have relished the opportunity to engage directly with the children at Kookaburra Kids, finding the experience both challenging and rewarding.

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