



Case for Support

Lolly Jar Circus changes young people's lives forever.

Our participants' achievements go beyond their circus classes and into the rest of their lives. We improve young people's physical health, strength, flexibility, confidence and social skills.

Our participants come from a diverse range of backgrounds and many have experienced social isolation. We give them more than just circus classes; we provide a safe place to belong and where friendships are made .

Social circus is an alternative pedagogical method used to create social change. Circus tricks are not the end goal but the tools through which young people find their place within their community. We want to continue to improve the lives of young people through our very own social circus school.

Everyone benefits from circus skills. For an introvert it may be solo juggling which is mesmerising and meditative, while an extrovert may be attracted to the physicality of acrobatics. Circus promotes cooperation without being competitive.

Our impact

Each week in the school term we hold 6 classes in North Adelaide and 3 at Elizabeth East. Across the school year we will enhance the lives of up to 100 regular participants each week.

We also reach out to 1,000s of young people through outreach sessions at schools, disability groups and events, always with the emphasis on inclusion.

Of our regular weekly participants:

- 12% are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders
- 50% have been formally diagnosed with autism
- 17% have Down Syndrome and other disabilities
- 33% are neuro-typical
- 14% are under Guardianship arrangements

Some of our greatest impact has been in our Elizabeth classes where a significant percentage of our young people are in foster care or under guardianship. For many of these young people Lolly Jar Circus is the activity they most look forward to each week. Our families tell us they wake in the morning saying "Is it Lolly Jar Circus today?" Some will even get up on a Monday and get their clothes ready for the Thursday class.

Lolly Jar Circus is a place where they don't feel judged. We are very proud of what we have achieved in the City of Playford. We have been there for four years and in that time have provided over 25 scholarships.





*We can't imagine
our world without
Lolly Jar Circus.*

*It was amazing as I
watched with
tears in my eyes
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achieved.*

Our Stories

Brooke's Story by her Mum

Brooke has been attending Lolly Jar for a few years now. Lolly Jar has been great for her core strength, confidence and social skills.

She used to be scared of approaching new people, but has always been persistent when learning new things. Lolly Jar has given her opportunities to learn new things in a controlled, safe environment.

When she participated in the performance of "Bug off" in 2021 it was amazing as I watched with tears in my eyes the things she has achieved. When Brooke was born her paediatrician warned us we might not take our baby home from the hospital. Then at 12 weeks old after having treatment for hip displacement, they said she might never walk. She has since spent time in wheelchairs and had surgeries on both knees to keep her ability to walk.

Brooke has learnt different skills along the way. One skill which has taken years to perfect is catching a ball, which took numerous hours with Lolly Jar Circus, physios and OT's to get there.

At the "Bug Off" performance, family, friends and I got to witness her on stilts catching and throwing a ball whilst she was walking around. It was amazing, she was so happy to be able to perform and show people what she can do!

Brooke loves stilt walking and without Lolly Jar she wouldn't have had the opportunity to even experience it. She has learnt somersaults, balancing, hula hoops and enjoys every minute of it!

Fleur's Story

Fleur is 16 and began with Lolly Jar Circus on a scholarship when she was 13 years old. After 3 years of classes Fleur is now being trained to be one of our trainers. Fleur has a mild intellectual disability but excels physically and is very sporty.

She has been in both of our major public performances and has developed skills and confidence to now become a trainer demonstrating our desire to bring lived experience into the development of our classes.

Tommy's Story

While Lolly Jar Circus is a registered NDIS provider under "Capacity Building - Innovative Social Participation - Increased Social and Community Participation" unfortunately this does not always suit individual plans under the scheme. Tommy has an NDIS plan but when it was reviewed the NDIS declined funding for his Lolly Jar Circus classes. They said, "Lolly Jar Circus is not a program which would be funded by NDIS as it does not meet all Reasonable and Necessary criteria; this is not directly related to Tommy's disability and is not considered value for money."

Tommy was diagnosed with non-verbal ASD at 3 years old. Now 7, he has been taking Lolly Jar Circus classes for a year. In that time our classes have been a great physical outlet for him and have assisted in his social skills and with simple tasks like waiting without becoming stressed. Tommy is falling through the gaps in the scheme and your support will help young people like them.



*Support our
young people.*

*Support Our
Scholarships.*

*Support Our
Sustainability*



Our Ask

Support Our Young People

Our families are a vulnerable section of our community. When the cost of living increases, they are the ones who feel it the most. We want to ensure that these families and young people can always benefit from Lolly Jar Circus no matter what the economic climate. Our Ask is to provide more concession rates with donations making up the shortfall of a full fee.

This will enable us to reach more young people, support more families, remain affordable and equitable.

Our current concession rate is \$15 per class and the full rate is \$30. To support a young person for a year is \$600, for two terms (6 months) it is \$300. To support 35 young people with this rate for a whole year it is \$21,600.

Or you can sponsor a one-off or multiple classes at \$300 each.

Support Our Scholarships

One of the greatest barriers to our young people attending our classes is they need specialist support, yet do not qualify for NDIS funding. We would like to have more scholarships available to families with vulnerable children who fall in to this gap. This would be 10 scholarships valued at \$12,000.

Support Our Sustainability

One of our greatest overheads is paying \$20,000 rent at North Adelaide and Elizabeth. By covering this expense we can ensure our resources are re-directed to supporting our participants.

All donations are tax deductible and life changing.

Contact Us

Telephone: 0435 828 443 (Judy, CEO)

Email: lollyjarcircus@gmail.com



*Lolly Jar Circus is
the best part of
my week. It's my
favourite thing
and I look forward
to it.*



Our History

Appendix A

2013

Lolly Jar Circus commenced classes in the All Souls' Church Hall at St Peters

2014

LJC was the benefit partner of Cirque du Soleil for its Adelaide tour of "Totem"

2015

Took part in our first Moon Lantern Festival

2016

- Received grant from Department of Community and Social Inclusion through Community Benefits SA to support a Little Lollies program and to purchase a defibrillator
- Participant and trainee trainer Charlie won the ACAPTA Spirit of Circus Award
- Began our public performances at Bunnings Seaford first birthday party, Bunnings Mile End Easter and Christmas Parties, Campbelltown Christmas Parade and the Moon Lantern Parade

2017

- Classes moved to The ARC at Campbelltown
- Started our second venue at Windsor Gardens Community Hall
- Lolly Jar Circus registered with the NDIS under Capacity Building – Innovative Social and Community Participation
- Received grant from Office for Recreation and Sport for circus equipment
- Held our 4th birthday dinner at the National Wine Centre with speaker actor Paul Blackwell
- Took part in the Moon Lantern Parade and performed at Cara picnic, KYD-X Kids and Disability Expo, International Day of People with Disability at Victoria Square and Christmas Party for Special Children at Zoo
- CEO Judy Bowden received an award from the Mayor of Playford at Celebration of Ability event
- Trainer Susan featured in a national tv segment about volunteering on Channel 9 Today Extra

2018

- Commenced classes at Elizabeth and Edwardstown, in addition to Campbelltown and Windsor Gardens
- Received grants from Sidney Myer Foundation for 4 scholarships for 2 terms for indigenous youth at disadvantage, Universal Charitable Fund for 2 scholarships for a full year for young people with disabilities or at risk, 2 Commonwealth Bank grants, Sisters of Charity grant for 15 scholarships for participants at financial disadvantage and from Department of Human Services for 3 iPads for record-keeping at classes
- Held our 6th birthday dinner at the National Wine Centre with special guest Mrs Lan Le wife of the Governor and speaker Hon Kelly Vincent
- Took part in the Moon Lantern Parade and performed at the KYD-X Kids and Disability Expo, International Day of People with Disability at Victoria Square and Christmas Party for Special Children at Zoo



2019

- Admitted into the SA Government Sports Voucher scheme
- Received grants from Playford Council to run a circus festival at Virginia, Sisters of Charity for 15 scholarships for participants at financial disadvantage, Universal Charitable Fund for 2 scholarships for a full year for young people with disabilities or at risk and Carclew for performance "Be Amazing (and don't eat cheese)" at Estonian Hall
- Performed at Innovative Solutions Expo, Moon Lantern Parade, KYD-X Kids and Disability Expo and Christmas Party for Special Children at the Zoo

2020

- ABC TV national news story about Lolly Jar Circus
- Created YouTube series for participants to continue learning during COVID-19 lockdown

2021

- Received grants from Department of Human Services for wheelchair ramp for Estonian Hall, Commonwealth Department of Social Services grant to promote inclusion of people with disabilities and their families and carers in artistic and recreational activities and Carclew for capacity building including a formal trainer training program and also Carclew for performance "Bug Off" at Estonian Hall
- Performed at the KYD-X Kids and Disability Expo, for International Day of People with Disability at the Bedford Street Party at Panorama

2022

- Received Capacity-Building grant from Carclew to further train our staff in disability support and create a formal Trainers Manual
- Held fundraising Quiz Night at Estonian Hall, North Adelaide

