



**The story of
Save the Children
in Australia
1919-2023**



Save the Children

Foreword.



As a former Save the Children Australia (SCA) Board member, with an interest in the rich history of Save the Children, I was delighted to be asked to produce a brochure to share this history as a resource for current and future Board members and staff.

Drawing on my own experience within SCA, the brochure is a limited attempt to capture key events in the formation and development of Save the Children in Australia, inextricably linked with the Save the Children movement internationally.

About the Author

Following membership of the West Australian State Division, Jill became a Director of Save the Children Australia (SCA) from 2003 to 2009 and from 2012 to 2019 during periods of transition nationally and internationally.

Her roles on the Board included membership of the Board Program and Risk Committee, Deputy Chair, Chair of the Program Committee, Chair of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee, Member of the Strategy and Planning Committee.

Jill contributed to the development of SCA's first National Program Strategy in 2007 and the organisation's participation in the Australian Government's Communities for Children Program in the Kimberley region of Western Australia.

Jill visited SCA programs in Cambodia, Laos and Bangladesh and attended international meetings in Seoul, Hong Kong, Washington, Reading in the UK, and Jordan. She also saw programs for refugees delivered by SCA in Nauru and by Save the Children International in Jordan.

The process of compiling the brochure offered the opportunity to sort and collate Save the Children WA (Western Australia) Division's archives up until consolidation of the national body in 2004. These valuable historical records have been deposited in the West Australian State Library archive collection. As an outcome of the archiving project, the WA State Office in Perth is now home to a dedicated space displaying the history of Save the Children in Western Australia.

– Jill Cameron

Introduction.



Save the Children was established by Eglantyne Jebb and her sister Dorothy Buxton in response to the plight of children during the economic blockade against defeated powers in Europe which caused widespread famine after the first world war. Development of the organisation internationally and in Australia are inextricably linked, initially driven predominantly by strong, dedicated women who used their influence towards achieving a shared vision for children in times of war, conflict, famine and natural disaster.

This brochure divides the story of Save the Children in Australia (SCA) into the following four phases:

1. Post-WWI to the Great Depression and WWII.
2. Revival post-WWII to the late 1990s.
3. 1998 to 2008: Survival and consolidation of seven separate legal entities into a single organisation in 2004, with the inevitable challenges associated with major organisational change and growth.
4. 2008 to 2024: A period of maturation, growth and adaptation to ongoing changes in Australia and internationally.

The brochure only scratches the surface of the rich history and achievements of individual State bodies and the people who influenced their development, and later those who had the courage to 'wind up' their Associations to achieve a single entity which has grown and flourished. The voluntary contribution of the thousands of past members, volunteers, donors and supporters across Australia must also be acknowledged.

The organisation's development reflects the social and economic circumstances over the past century. These include changing demographics, the changing role of women and volunteers, developments in philanthropy and business and advances in technology. While the organisation in Australia has become more sophisticated, emergencies and events that impact so profoundly on children across the world remain the same – conflict and war, climate related famine, drought, floods and poverty.

As SCA has transformed to become one of the largest charities in Australia, its growth has meant the organisation is able to address the needs of more children at a time when that need is growing exponentially.

This brochure does not set out to be an academic history. Rather, it is intended to provide an overview of SCA's development, taking account of the international and national context, drawing on information from a document prepared for SCA by Katrina Peach in August 2005 (updated by Rupert North in October 2008), Annual Reports, a range of other documents, websites and reflections. Not all achievements and events could be included and any omission is not intentional.

1. The first phase: 1919 to the Great Depression and World War II

A vision of a better future for ALL children.

Australia

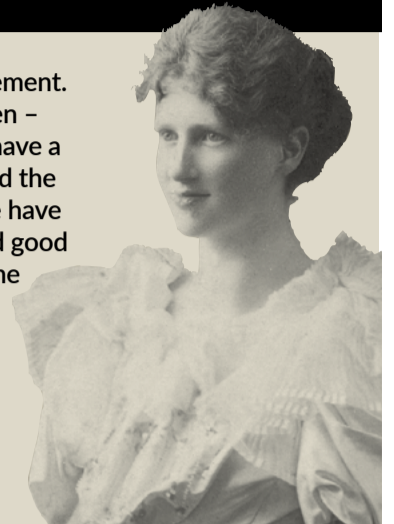
International

- The first international branch of Save the Children is established in Melbourne by opera singer, feminist and peace activist Cecilia Annie John.

1919

May 1919

- Eglantyne Jebb starts a worldwide movement. She is driven by the belief that all children – whoever they are, wherever they are – have a right to a healthy, happy fulfilling life, and the belief that change is within reach – if we have courage, determination, imagination and good organisation. She establishes the Save the Children Fund (SCF) to send real aid and famine relief to children across Europe. Within weeks of starting up, SCF is distributing aid in Berlin and Austria.



- Victoria's dairy farming communities send consignments of milk powder to famine relief in Europe.

1919

- Clio Johnson, a former President of the Women's Peace Army in Brisbane, establishes a Queensland Branch of the SCF.

1920

January 1920

- Eglantyne Jebb succeeds in starting the International Save the Children Union in Geneva.



- A branch is established in Adelaide and raises £10,000 for the European relief efforts in the first year.
- Monthly consignments of flour and large quantities of clothing are sent to the European relief effort.

1920

1920s



- SCF responds to the Russian famine.
- SCF response to the Russian famine is an impressive feat of international negotiations and logistics that informs Save the Children's future aid work.

- Victorian founder of SCF attends the first international congress of Save the Children Funds in Geneva, then remains in the UK to direct overseas activities of the Fund.
- Treasurer of SCF in Queensland visits famine areas where SCF is working including Austria, Czechoslovakia and Poland.
- Russian Relief Appeal is launched in *The West Australian* newspaper.
- A Save the Children committee is established in Launceston.
- Launceston committee raises money for the Russian relief effort.

1921

1923

- Eglantyne Jebb, then President of SCF, develops five principles on the rights of the child, known as the Declaration of Geneva, which are adopted by the Save the Children International Union.



- South Australia establishes a division of the SCF.
- In Western Australia, Miss E R Finlayson, arrives from England as Head Mistress Presbyterian Ladies College (PLC) from 1922–1927. She believed children under her care should be taught to think about others who live in conditions less fortunate than their own. This begins a strong relationship between PLC students and Save the Children that still exists in 2024.

1922

Mid-1920s



- Eglantyne Jebb focuses on needs of local children in Britain. The need to spread the organisation's work to Asia and Africa is also identified.

1928

- Eglantyne Jebb dies but her legacy lives on.

- The fund is idle in Australia during the Great Depression and then WWII.

1932

1931

- First conference on African children takes place.

1932

- The Great Depression.

1936



- SCF assists children caught on both sides of the Spanish Civil War.



2.

The second phase: Revival Post-World War II to the late 1990s

The 1940s see expansion internationally to include programmes to support survivors in France, Holland, Italy, West Germany, Austria, Finland, Greece, Lebanon and South Korea and the revival of SCF in Australia.

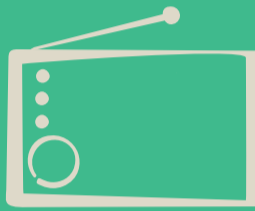
Australia

International

- August: formation of Victorian Branch is first discussed. **1943**
- WA's Country Women's Association (CWA) begins collecting money for Save the Children, sending it to UK through the Victorian Division.

- May: Florence Grylls re-establishes the Victorian Branch of SCF as a section of the British SCF. **1944**
- September: Following the National CWA conference in Perth interest is expressed in sponsorship of orphans and starting a branch of SCF. Women in rural areas and Perth launch a campaign to raise money for children and to pay expenses of SCF workers overseas.

- In WA on the ABC radio 'Women's Session', Catherine King reads a letter about war-ravaged Greece. Donations and gifts flood in, which Catherine ships to Greece. Catherine uses her position on ABC radio to promote the work of SCF. **1945**
- SCF Victoria funds 345 mostly British child sponsorships.



- State branch is re-established in Tasmania and fundraising committees formed in ACT, NSW and Queensland. **1946**
- Victorian Branch sends a report to the first International Union for Child Welfare in Geneva voicing concern that the care of Aboriginal children is falling far short of Declaration of Geneva standards and increasing migration of orphans.
- Rural CWA branches in WA send donations to Victorian SCF.

- April: WA Division of SCF is formed. **1947**
- SA branch is re-established with assistance from the CWA and local Girl Guides, under the chairmanship of Lady De Crespigny, Adelaide's Lady Mayoress.
- At the end of WWII when Europe again needs assistance, branches spring up around the country to fundraise for the relief effort.



- By the end of the 40's decade, there are fundraising committees in the ACT, NSW and Queensland. **1948**
- Assistance to Indigenous children increases.

- Founding WA branch member Catherine King tours SCF projects in Europe while her husband is on sabbatical leave in London. **1950**

- SCF Victoria obtains permission from the UN to enter Korea to provide aid to child victims of the civil war. This is the beginning of two decades of assistance to Korean children. **1952**



- SCF assistance is provided following a volcanic eruption in PNG.



Déclaration de Genève

(Adoptée par le Conseil général de l'Union Internationale de Secours aux Enfants dans sa session du 23 février 1923, votée définitivement par le Comité exécutif dans sa séance du 17 mai 1923, et signée par les membres du Conseil général le 28 février 1924.)

Par la présente Déclaration des Droits de l'Enfant, dite Déclaration de Genève, les hommes et les femmes de toutes les nations, reconnaissant que l'humanité doit donner à l'enfant ce qu'elle a de meilleur, affirment leurs devoirs, en dehors de toute considération de race, de nationalité et de croyance:

1. L'Enfant doit être mis en mesure de se développer d'une façon normale, matériellement et spirituellement.
2. L'Enfant qui a faim doit être nourri, l'enfant malade doit être soigné, l'enfant arriéré doit être encouragé, l'enfant dévoyé doit être ramené, l'orphelin et l'abandonné doivent être recueillis et secourus.
3. L'Enfant doit être le premier à recevoir des secours en temps de détresse.
4. L'Enfant doit être mis en mesure de gagner sa vie et doit être protégé contre toute exploitation.
5. L'Enfant doit être élevé dans le sentiment que ses meilleures qualités devront être mises au service de ses frères.



- Altered version of the Rights of the Child is declared in Geneva. **1948**
- SCF provides assistance to children in Pakistan, India, Europe and the Middle East - donations assist 250,000 destitute children in the Middle East and provide scholarships for children in India and Pakistan.

- SCF in Greece helps children of the Aegean. **1949**

- SCF has a massive relief effort during and after the Korean War. **1950**

1952



- SCF opened the Serendah Boys School in Malaya (now Malaysia), which gives boys orphaned by WWII an education and safe place to live.
- The Korean War leaves many children destitute and living unaccompanied on the streets. SCF teams (including Australians) arrive in 1952 and stay for more than 20 years.

Australia

International

- Victorian Branch continues work with child migrants and war orphans and establishes playgroups for Aboriginal children in Shepparton and Mooroopna.

1953



- Victorian Branch launches inaugural Rice Bowl appeal that becomes an annual event for almost two decades.

1954

- NSW branch is established.
- The Victorian branch sends 85 cartons of clothing to NSW for the NSW Flood Relief Appeal and donations for relief efforts to South Korea and to India, Greece, Germany and France.
- Educational grants and scholarships for Indigenous children established by the Victoria Branch are provided for 130 children over 15 years.

1955/56

- The Victorian Division begins negotiations to form the Australian Save the Children Council.
- The federal government passes a new Bill to implement recommendations from Save the Children and other organisations to improve conditions and care for Aboriginal children.

1957

- WA division funds the Allawah Grove kindergarten for Indigenous children and launches its own annual Rice Bowl appeal encouraging locals to donate their lunch money and have a bowl of rice instead.

1959

- SCA Council is convened for the first time as a means of assisting children in developing countries more directly, and becoming eligible for Australian government subsidies to carry this out. Prior to this each state division operated as a branch of the Save the Children Fund UK, sending money to the UK for use on projects in developing countries.

1961

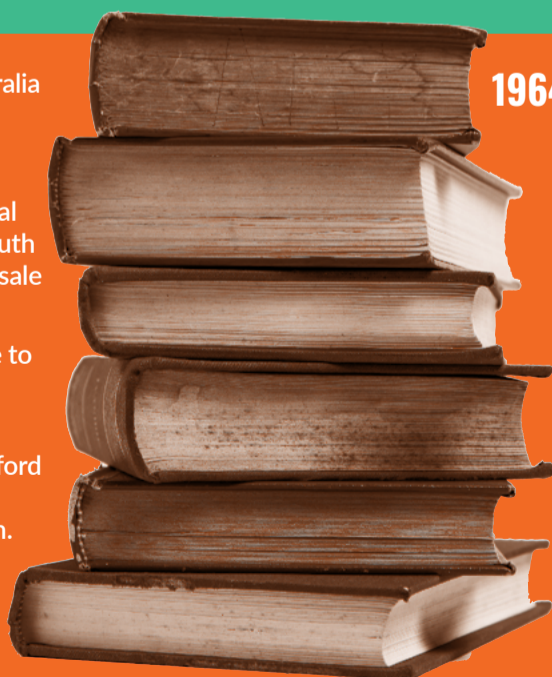
- NSW opens its first preschool for Indigenous children at Coffs Harbour.
- Victoria sends its first donation to Indonesia.

1962

- NSW sends 3 tons of powdered milk annually to a SC infant welfare centre in South Korea.

1963

- University of Western Australia Branch holds its first annual book sale and raises £47. In 2023, the UWA book sale continues as an iconic annual fundraiser together with South of the River book sales and sale of books in SCA shops.
- Victoria sends 3 tons of rice to orphanages in Djakarta.
- SCF is re-established in Tasmania by Mrs Dulcie Gifford in response to the needs of disadvantaged local children.



1964

- \$1,000 worth of donated clothes are shipped from Victoria to Italy to assist children suffering from floods.
- Australian divisions send aid to victims of Tasmanian bushfires.
- Victoria spends \$32,026 on local Aboriginal Welfare and \$42,077 on relief of children in need overseas.

1967



1954

- SCF teams, including national staff, worked with Korean refugees – it was estimated that almost half the population of South Korea were refugees – in the form of emergency relief. Later a health centre was opened in Pusan; a TB clinic, a milk feeding centre, a playgroup, and a clinic in the refugee 'tented city' opened in February 1954.

1958

- World Refugee Year.
- Save the Children is established in Hong Kong and work in Italy expands.

1959

- UN adopts the Declaration of the Rights of the Child.



1963

- SCF joins the Food and Agricultural Organisation's 'The Freedom from Hunger campaign', and expands work to prevent famine and food shortages in Korea, Morocco, Nigeria and the West Indies.



1967

- Images of starving Biafran children in the Nigeria/Biafra Civil War are broadcast across the world. As the conflict rages over more than 2 years, SCF clinics help around 400 patients per day.
- London SCF office sends \$12,500 to aid child victims of Tasmanian bushfires.

Australia

International

- Australian divisions send emergency relief and medical care to aid victims of the Nigeria/Biafra civil war. Aid is provided to refugees of the Pakistan civil war and flood victims.
- SCF funds a WA visiting nurse service run under the direction of Princess Margaret Hospital. The service grows to include four mobile clinics serving disadvantaged Indigenous and non-Indigenous families.



1969

1968

- SCF's first African field office opens in Tanzania.



- In Tasmania, apple drives begin as part of a nutrition program.
- In South Australia, the Oodnadatta Hostel is constructed to host Indigenous primary school children who leave their families to attend primary school.
- In Victoria, a Ballarat student recipient of an SCF scholarship becomes the first Indigenous student to attend Melbourne University.

1971

- Australia provides aid to refugees in Bangladesh, funds two Nutrition Education Centres in Malawi and nutritionists in Goroka and Mendi in PNG.

1972

- Australia sets up a vocational training school in Jombang, Indonesia.
- An appeal in Victoria for the Ethiopian drought emergency raises a record \$34,402

1973

1970

- HRH Princess Anne becomes World President of Save the Children.
- SCF provides emergency food and medical relief for children and their families following Bhola Cyclone in Bangladesh and India.

- In NSW, the first Family Support Services commence at Mt Druitt and Blacktown.

1974

1974



- The international Save the Children union adopts its current logo of a child with its arms in the air.

- State divisions of SCF agree to create a National arm of the Fund – Save the Children Australia – which could engage in overseas development projects on behalf of State divisions.
- In Queensland, pre-school education centres open for Indigenous children in Inala, Eisvold and Mitchell. 'Gareema' House refuge in Brisbane opens for women and children escaping domestic violence.

1975



- The Australian Division joins the International Save the Children Alliance.

1977

1975–76

- Save the Children is the first international aid agency allowed to return to Vietnam after the war ends in 1975.
- SCF responds to the Guatemala earthquake.



- Australia sends aid to India when almost 30 million people are made homeless from monsoonal floods.

1978



- Victorian Division appoints its first PR officer in response to dwindling donations.

1979

1979



- International Year of the Child and Save the Children's Diamond Anniversary. The Stop Polio campaign is launched to mark the occasion.

- The fundraising environment is increasingly competitive with establishment of a growing number of NGOs. SCA engages Ogilvy and Mather who donate creative services to prepare a fundraising plan. By the end of the decade SCF is tapping into legacies, bequest, Trusts and Foundations.

1980s

1980s

- SCF responds to the HIV/Aids epidemic setting up education, prevention and treatment projects to combat prejudice and misconception around the spread of HIV/AIDS.
- Emergency relief is directed to the Kampuchean crisis following the Pol Pot years and East Africa where famine sees hundreds of thousands of children starve to death.
- SCF is an early responder to a decade of famine in Ethiopia.

- Ron Walker, new President of the Victorian Division, modernises the organisation, introduces new fundraising initiatives and makes other changes. An increasing emphasis is placed on programs in third world countries. By the end of the decade an average of 30% of funds are expended in Australia and 70% abroad which becomes the benchmark nationally for allocation of aid funds.



Australia

International

- 24 Sept: Save the Children is incorporated (Save the Children Fund Australia) as a company, limited by guarantee with two directors from each of the six states and an independent chair. SCF Australia commences managing its own overseas projects, the first of which is a five-year program in Vanuatu. Apart from Government Grants and donations, the organisation previously had limited capacity to raise funds independently of State Divisions.
- WA division hosts its own 'Aid to Africa' concert to raise money for African famine programs.

1985

- SA funds programs for Aboriginal children through the Kuu Yerlo Council in Largs Bay and services provided by the Kurna Plains School for Aboriginal Children and the Aboriginal Youth Centre in Coober Pedy.

1986

- 'Future Parents Program' is developed in Queensland.



1989

- Save the Children Victorian division withdraws from operating preschool at Robinvale and begins to focus on child protection, introducing breakfast/nutritional programs and a protective behaviours program in conjunction with the Police.
- NSW transfers its preschool centres to self-management by local Indigenous communities.
- SA funds a toy library in Lithuania for children with disabilities.
- Victorian Division reduces funding for overseas programs.
- Work commences in PNG supporting a village health project in the highlands and a kindergarten association.
- Work commences in health and education in Vietnam.

1990s



- Integrated primary health care and maternal child health programs commence in Cambodia and Laos.
- Work in Bangladesh with street kids commences.
- Work in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands continues.
- HIV AIDS education and awareness programs funded across the Asia Pacific region.

1988

- The International Save the Children Alliance is re-launched and a Secretariat established in London. It would be led by a Secretary General 10 years later. The Secretariat's role is to facilitate and co-ordinate the work of Members and the Alliance-wide Working and Co-ordinating Groups, made up of Members' thematic specialists and experts.



1989

- The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is adopted by UN General Assembly, making it the most universally accepted human rights treaty in history.

1990s

- During the 1990s SCF works with children affected by war in Iraq, Sudan, Somalia, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Colombia, Sri Lanka, Sierra Leone, Angola and the Balkans and campaigns for the rights of child soldiers and for protection of children displaced by war.



1993

- Post war work in South East Europe.

1994

- SCF sets up a family tracing and reunification program following the Rwandan genocide.



- In Tasmania, a weekend bookstall is established at Salamanca Markets raising \$250 every weekend for the next decade.

1991

- SCA joins more than 100 NGOs demanding that the federal government call for a ban on production and use of landmines.



1995

1995

- First State of the World's Mothers Report is released on Mothers' Day.



- Kay Hallahan joins the WA Division's Committee and is elected Chair of the Save the Children Australia Board in 1998, a position she holds until August 2004. On coming to the position, Kay finds SCA to be in a financially unsustainable position.

1997/98

3.

The third phase: Survival, transition, consolidation and growth 1998 to 2008

Australia

International

- Over three years, annual pledges from States to the National body decrease from \$948,000 to \$690,000. In response to the immediate financial crisis, WA increases its pledge for 2001 from \$190,000 to \$250,000. SCA's total revenue for the year ending 30 June 2001 is \$5.4m. Overseas programs are threatened with closure because of insufficient funds. Support and investment by the International Save the Children Alliance is conditional on the seven separate organisations in Australia consolidating into a single body. With Alliance investment, SCA and the State bodies work through a challenging process to form a consolidated organisation for Save the Children in Australia.

2000s

- Full AusAID Accreditation process is completed in April.

- National and State Save the Children organisations, with their history of decentralised operations, work through a challenging process to form an integrated organisation for Save the Children in Australia.
- June: New Save the Children Australia Constitution is adopted. It provides for a Council, without governance or management responsibilities, to be established in each state as individual state Incorporated Associations wind up.
- July: Member States vote to consolidate with plans to wind up State organisations by June 2002.
- November: WA is the first State body to consolidate and complete the windup process.
- Inaugural Chocolate Lovers Ball is held in Tasmania.
- Twenty-three Save the Children staff and board members from nine countries attended the first Pacific workshop in Queensland in early December, to learn about Child Rights Programming, and to share experiences and plans within the Pacific region.

2001

- January: With financial investment from the Save the Children Alliance, SCA commences a full-scale Market Development Program (MDP) based on Direct Mail and face to face marketing.
- SCA staff assume a greater role and have direct input in decisions affecting The International Save the Children Alliance.
- Work commences on the development of a cohesive National Program for Australia.
- June: SA and Tasmania wind up processes are completed.
- September: NSW wind up processes are completed.
- UN Global Peace Schools Program launched in WA. Christ Church Grammar School, Perth is the first school in Australia to complete the program and becomes a global peace school. SCA WA Speaking Out Coordinator formally presents a report on the achievement to the UN in New York.

2002

- Australia plays a lead role in piloting a Board Development Program for adoption throughout the Alliance.

2002/03

- Queensland votes to wind up the state organisation when legalities are finalised.
- Development and rationalisation of financial procedures commences across all SCA offices.
- April: The first consolidated draft budget incorporating national and state office budgets is presented to the Board.
- NSW and Tasmania join WA and SA as part of the consolidated organisation.
- Website and online donation facility are developed.
- SCA relocates to a larger office.
- October: Victorian members vote at the AGM to consolidate with SCA.

2003

- July: Save the Children becomes one organisation in Australia and in 2008, Save the Children Queensland and Save the Children Victoria are fully consolidated into SCA.

2004

- Work continues on internal consolidation, increasing fundraising through MDP and maintaining overseas programs in seven countries.
- Fundraising includes Workplace Giving, and the Make Poverty History campaign.
- November: name officially changes to Save the Children Australia.



2000s

- SCF joins the global effort to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, with ambitious targets including cutting child mortality by two-thirds, halving extreme poverty and hunger, and that all children should be in school by 2015.
- There is a massive increase in capacity to respond to emergencies.
- The five-year response to the 2004 Asian tsunami, one of the largest in SCF history, reaches around one million people.



2002

- April: The Save the Children International Alliance Members meet in Melbourne. The Alliance Secretariat focuses on organisational development, opening new markets where Save the Children is not represented, helping smaller national organisations to become more financially viable, while strengthening, enhancing and raising global awareness of the Save the Children brand.
- May: The UN Special Session on Children held in New York follows re-scheduling of the event from September 2001. The CEO of the Save the Children Alliance addresses the UN General Assembly.
- The Save the Children Alliance produces a new training tool, the Child Rights Programming Handbook

2002/03

- International Save the Children Alliance develops Global Brand Guidelines which would improve the quality of donor communications.

2003



- Save the Children assists families after the Iraq war.
- Trial commences of consolidation of SCA and SC NZ programs in Papua New Guinea (PNG).
- SCF is on the ground helping refugees during the conflict in Darfur, Sudan.

2004

- Boxing Day South Asia tsunami kills 225,000 people and displaces millions.



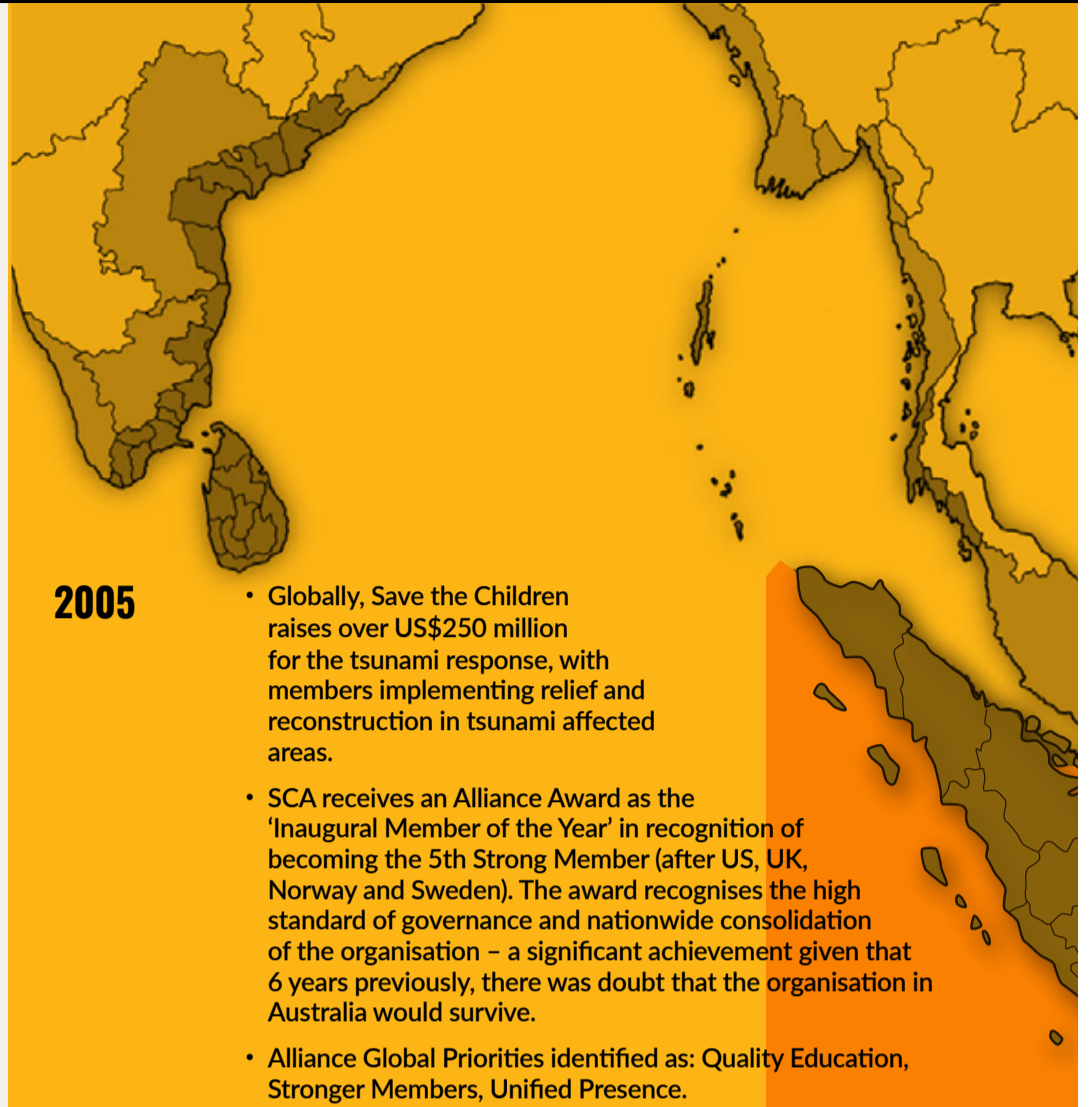
Australia

International

2005

- Significant fundraising efforts follow the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami. SCA raises over A\$4.85M.
- Shortly following the Asian tsunami, with support from SC UK, SCA produces 'A Toolkit for Primary and Secondary Schools in Australia' which is distributed to every school in Australia. The teaching aid is also available to download from the web. His Excellency the Governor-General commends the publication in his introduction to Australian teachers, dated 18th January 2005.
- SCA receives the Givewell Best Practice Not-for-Profit Award at the 5th Australian Corporate Sustainability Awards presented by Ethical Investor.
- SCA Business Alliance is established.
- Donor data base grows from 18,523 in 2002 to 64,600 in 2005.
- Comprehensive integrated national planning process is implemented using the Balanced Scorecard approach.
- 30% of untied funds are allocated to State based programs.
- In WA, the Federal Government funded Communities for Children Program commences in partnership with the Lingiari Foundation. A new field office is opened in Kununurra. The Federal Government and Shell fund the Youth at Risk Program in Kununurra and Wyndham.
- In NSW, the Mobile Play scheme commences in Riverina-Murray and a new field office opens in Wagga Wagga.
- In SA, Pennington Primary School becomes the first Global Peace School in the State.
- In Tasmania, Denmark's Crown Prince Frederick and Crown Princess Mary are special guests at the Chocolate Lovers Ball.
- SCA contributes funds for the video production of '11 Canoes', a training course for local school students, following filming of the Award winning 'Ten Canoes' in the NT.

Tsunami Appeal - State Revenue		
	Received	Pledged
WA	1,553,258	150,000
NSW	130,118	
Vic	90,295	
SA	158,343	
Tas	2,000	
Qld	184,331	
Total	\$2,118,346	\$150,000
<i>(Possible Total \$2,268,346)</i>		



2005

- Globally, Save the Children raises over US\$250 million for the tsunami response, with members implementing relief and reconstruction in tsunami affected areas.
- SCA receives an Alliance Award as the 'Inaugural Member of the Year' in recognition of becoming the 5th Strong Member (after US, UK, Norway and Sweden). The award recognises the high standard of governance and nationwide consolidation of the organisation – a significant achievement given that 6 years previously, there was doubt that the organisation in Australia would survive.
- Alliance Global Priorities identified as: Quality Education, Stronger Members, Unified Presence.
- SCF responds to the 2005 Pakistan earthquake.



2006

- Members vote in support of a change to the Constitution with the maximum number of Directors increasing from 11 to 14 and all directors to be elected on a national basis instead of some being appointed by the Board and others elected by members in each State.
- The first integrated Australian Program Strategy is being developed.

2006

- Save the Children's first global campaign 'Rewrite the Future' is launched with a focus on education for children in conflict.

Rewrite the Future

Education for children in conflict-affected countries

2007

- SCA continues to work in support of the Make Poverty History campaign.
- With SCA completing its contract as an MDP Host in 2006, the Board agrees that, commencing in 2007, SCA would become an MDP funder, which would generate a financial return to programs while supporting the Alliance Strategy of building stronger Members. Funders of MDP were previously US, UK, Norway and Sweden.
- SCA has 1,321 members, 1,279 volunteers, 61 Branches and a data base of 200,000. The National Office has 31 FTE staff, 2 P/T staff and 2 regular volunteers. The States have 53 FTE, 47 P/T and 14 regular volunteers. SCA has 291 overseas field staff.
- The Constitution states that a State Council's duties may include: Raising and spending money within Board policies and accountabilities, with an agreed proportion of funds raised being retained for domestic activities, with the current agreed proportion 30% of surplus funds raised, after accounting for Administration and Fundraising expenditure. Before consolidation, programs in Australia were designed, funded and implemented on a state by state basis with most programs not of the size of overseas programs and without their impact. Without a clear national focus, the Australian program risks being an ad hoc 'rollout' of programs previously instituted on a state by state basis, with State Councils and SEOs determining where the 30% of funds generated in their state should be spent, without Board oversight.
- A field office is established in Ceduna in SA.
- Program Quality Framework is endorsed.
- Australian Program Strategy 2007-2012 is finalised.
- SCA responds to a tsunami in the Solomon Islands.

2007



- The *State of the World's Mothers* report shows that Australia falls down in comparison to other top five countries in terms of not having paid maternity leave as a national requirement.
- SCA is now entitled to appoint a director to the Save the Children Alliance Board.



State of the
WORLD'S MOTHERS 2007

Saving the Lives of
Children Under 5

4.

The fourth phase: Maturation, growth and adaptation to ongoing change in Australia and internationally 2008 to 2024

Australia

International

- Save the Children Queensland and Save the Children Victoria are fully consolidated into SCA. **2008**
- Imagine sponsorship program is launched to support Australian children.
- November: SCA Members vote to change the Constitution. Changes include: increase in the number of Directors from 11 to 14, election of all Directors by all Members voting on a national basis, with at least one Director resident in each state, election of Directors for a 3 year term, with a maximum tenure of 6 years.

2008



- Save the Children responds to Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar and an earthquake in China.

- SCA celebrates its 90th anniversary. **2009**
- SCA assumes responsibility for all programs in PNG which were previously managed by SC NZ.
- Policy Research and Advocacy Department is established to strengthen research capacity and lobby at the highest level.
- Strategic Projects Department is established.
- SCA is recommended for full Accreditation by the Council for Development Committee.
- State Councils are established with Members appointed by the Board on the recommendation of Members in that State following a vote of members. The Constitution states that 'The Board may only dissolve a State Council at the request of the Members of that State (determined by 75% of Members, eligible to vote and voting), voting on a resolution to request the dissolution of a State Council in favour of the request being made'. NOTE: In a 2005 planning workshop there was agreement with the exception of one person that in 5 years the Council model may not be appropriate.
- SCA has approx. 1,200 members nationally, with an ageing cohort.
- 27% of funding is allocated to Australian programs, 73% to overseas programs.

2009



- A global campaign to save millions of lives of children under 5 is launched: Survive to Five/EveryOne.
- Save the Children Alliance members vote to support a new governance structure for the 24 members and establish an International Program Unit (IPU). It is critical that SCA's AusAID accreditation and DGR status are protected.
- The Alliance agrees that activities which SCA conducts in the Pacific region will not come under the control of the IPU. Instead, SCA will continue to conduct those activities (Pacific carve out) which is an achievement given Alliance emphasis at the time on scale which would disadvantage small Pacific countries of strategic importance to Australia.
- November: UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is ratified by 194 countries, including every member of the United Nations except Somalia and the United States - US signed but didn't ratify the Convention.
- It's agreed that the SCA led Laos Primary Health Care Program in Sayaboury be replicated in other provinces and underwritten by SCA while external funding is sought.

- SCA is the recipient of \$35.7m grant from AusAID for work in Afghanistan. **2011**
- The First Reconciliation Action Plan is adopted following extensive consultation.
- The Constitution is amended to provide for postal voting.
- August: WA members vote in favour of a request for the Board to dissolve the WA State Council in accordance with Clause 10 of the Constitution. Supported by the Board, the State Council is the first to be dissolved. Other states follow.

- SCI transformation process is progressing. **2012**

- Humanitarian Leadership Program is launched by SCA in partnership with Deakin University and other aid organisations. **2012**
- October: SCA begins providing services at the Australian Government Offshore Asylum Seeker Detention centres in Manus Island (until all children are relocated) and Nauru.
- SCA is in the top three children's charities in Australia for brand recognition.
- Increased engagement with Members of Parliament in Canberra results in approaches to SCA for 'issues briefings'.
- SCA works with UNICEF, the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition and Families Australia to convince the Federal Government to establish a National Children's Commissioner.

2013

- SCI responds to Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines and the Syrian crisis.



- SCA responds to five flood and bushfire emergencies in NSW, Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania. **2013**
- Strategic Plan 2013-2015 is completed.
- 20% of SCA staff are Indigenous.



- October: The Australian Government orders SCA to remove nine of its employees from their work in Nauru. **2014**

2014

- SCA is now the 4th largest Alliance member country.

Australia

International

- SCA's work in Uruzgan Province in Afghanistan concludes.
- SCA and Good Beginnings merge.
- The Centre for Evidence and Implementation is established.
- On 31 October, the Contract with the Australian Government to provide services to asylum seekers in Nauru ends.
- The Moss Review, commissioned by the Australian Government and released in March, finds there was no evidence of wrongdoing on behalf of Save the Children or the nine staff removed from Nauru in October 2014.

2015

- The follow up to the Moss Review finds that the removal of SCA staff was unjustified, and recommends that the Australian Government enter into negotiations to compensate Save the Children and the removed staff.
- SCA adopts Environmental Sustainability 2016-18 Strategy and Implementation Plan.

2016

- Collaborative Agreement is reached with University of Melbourne to roll out First 100 Days Australia.
- SCA merges with Hands on Learning.
- The number of branches declines to 25 nationally.

2017

- The number of branches continues decline to 18 nationally.

2018



- SCA celebrates the Centenary of SCF and SCA.
- SCA enters into partnership with META for e-safety project in the Pacific.

2019

- SCA is the first development NGO in the world accredited to the Green Climate Fund.
- The first large-scale pilot initiated by SCA's Inclusiv Ventures starts to activate partners.
- SCA acquires 17 retail shops from The Smith Family.



- Journey of Hope is rolled out to 39 schools across Victoria and NSW following devastating bush fires.
- Focus is on supporting children and families to address the health, social and economic impacts of COVID-19, while accelerating progress on long-term development goals.

2020

- Given the decline in the number of members and limited participation by members in the AGM, the SCA membership model is brought into line with current practice in the not-for-profit sector, with directors as the only members of Save the Children Australia, rather than the broader membership base under the previous constitution. A board composition policy is maintained separately from the constitution. The requirement for the board to have at least one director who is a resident in each State is retained. The minimum number of directors remains at 6 with the maximum number removed from the constitution and set out in the board charter. Former Life Members are invited to become Life Patrons.
- Youth Partnership Project is evaluated by the Centre for Evidence and Implementation.
- Impact Investment Fund is launched.
- SCA acquires Library for All.



- Impact of COVID-19 continues, including travel bans, team member availability, closure of retail stores, working from home and inability to deliver programs as originally designed or within agreed time-frames.
- Remote learning packages are delivered across Victoria.
- Collaborations are in place to reach children in remote parts of PNG, Solomon Islands, Fiji, Tonga and Vanuatu.
- SCA fights to raise Australia's minimum age of criminal responsibility.
- Efforts continue to repatriate 47 Australian children and their mothers from North East Syria.
- SCA develops programs with Pacific governments for community-based climate adaptation.



2021

- August: SCA local programs become known as 54 reasons.

2022

SAVE THE CHILDREN
UWA WINTER
BOOK SALE!

Friday 18 August, 3pm-5pm
Saturday 19 August, 9am-5pm
Sunday 20 August, 9am-5pm
Monday 18 August, 9pm-6pm
Tuesday 19 August, 9am-7pm
Wednesday 23 August, 9am-3pm
UWA - WINTHROP HALL
UNDER THE CLOCKTOWER
Stirling Highway, Crawley

- July: Funding for a new six-year project in the Solomon Islands is announced by Save the Children and the Green Climate Fund.
- July: University of Western Australia Branch celebrates its 60th anniversary, holding the next 5-day book sale in August. The running tally of funds raised from Winter sales from 1963 to 2022 is \$5,159,254 and close to \$5.5m when all sales are counted.

2023

- Sustainable Development Goals replace the Millennium Development Goals.

2015



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



2019

- Global Centenary Campaign launched – Stop the War on Children (SWOC).
- COVID 19 pandemic starts late in 2019.



2021



- The world is facing a child rights crisis on an unprecedented scale with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, climate crisis, and various conflicts creating devastating challenges for children globally.

- Together with Barclays, SCI launches Fintech for International Development – a social enterprise that delivers a unique, sustainable digital network to empower communities and help build local micro-economies.
- SCI reaches 43 million children, responds to 103 emergencies and achieves 254 advocacy campaign 'wins'.

2022

- Save the Children is supporting children and families suffering from the War in Ukraine and conflict and famine in Sudan.

2023

- Nearly 110 million people are displaced worldwide because of war, conflict, hunger, drought, climate change.
- Save the Children has 30 national members, one name, one strategy and one ambition and 250,000 staff working in 116 countries.



Appendices.

SCA Income 2001–2021

2001	\$5,447,000
2002	\$9,079,000
2003	\$13,634,000
2004	\$24,170,000
2005	\$43,906,896 (includes transfer of state assets on consolidation)
2006	\$42,482,981
2007	\$42,586,691
2008	\$48,645,855
2009	\$54,157,108
2010	\$59,201,172
2011	\$74,631,664
2012	\$86,127,996
2013	\$103,015,159
2014	\$144,919,471
2015	\$132,631,664
2016	\$105,721,000
2017	\$108,624,000
2018	\$127,087,000
2019	\$134,261,000
2020	\$151,485,000 (excludes \$11.9m income from COVID JobKeeper payment)
2020	\$163,381,000
2021	\$179,719,000
2022	\$191,037,000

Examples of fundraising over the years

- Shops: Following World War II donations of clothing and other goods were packed by volunteers and shipped to Europe. Later, food items were also included in the post war relief effort. In some States, as donations continued and could all not be shipped overseas, Opportunity Shops were opened initially as trials, with shops continuing to today as an important source of unrestricted income. *"The shops can sell anything from billiard tables to babies' booties ...and even a bantam hen with five chicks sold within 20 minutes for \$4."* 1972
- Branch fundraising events such as theatrical performances, film nights, art exhibitions,
- Bridge and card games, 'pub nights', street sales, 'Paddy's Markets', Garden Parties
- Balls with a range of themes
- Street Appeals
- Anniversary celebrations and events
- Sponsorship of children and projects, initially managed by volunteers
- Community and school fund raising
- Book Sales: In 2023, the Western Australian University Branch is celebrating its 60th Anniversary of pre-owned book sales. The South of the River Branch also holds annual sales and books are sold in SCA shops
- Publication of recipe books
- Sale of fun-raiser badges
- Campaigns and events such as Skip a Treat, Dancing with the Stars, Festival of Trees
- Adventure events such as 'More than Footprints - basecamp 2013 Himalayan expedition'
- Online campaigns in response to emergencies
- Monthly giving
- Personal donations and philanthropy
- Workplace giving and corporate support
- Bequests and Gifts in Wills
- Government grants and contracts
- Organisations adopt Save the Children for 'special projects.' For example, the Association of Apex Clubs adopted the SCF as its special World Project for 1961–62 and raised funds for Save the Children branches.

Board Chairs 1998–2024

1998–Aug 2004	Kay Hallahan AO HonDLitt(Curtin)
Aug 2004–Feb 2006	Geoffrey Court
Feb 2006–Nov 2006	Virginia Rogers OAM
Nov 2006–June 2009	Brian Hartzler
June 2009–Nov 2010	Phillip Ransom
Nov 2010–June 2012	Peter Watson
June 2012–March2021	Peter Hodgson
March 2021–current	Larry Kamener

The Rights of the Child*

A few years after establishing the Save the Children Fund, then President Eglantyne Jebb developed five principles on the rights of the child known as the Declaration of Geneva and adopted by the Save the Children International Union in February 1923. The principles were also adopted by the League of Nations in 1924. In 1959 the principles were extended from five to seven and became the basis for the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child which were enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child is the first legally binding international instrument to incorporate the full range of human rights—civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights.

In 1989, world leaders decided that children needed a special convention just for them because people under 18 years old often need special care and protection that adults do not. The leaders also wanted to make sure that the world recognized that children have human rights too.

The Convention sets out these rights in 54 articles and two Optional Protocols. It spells out the basic human rights that children everywhere have: the right to survival; to develop to the fullest; to protection from harmful influences, abuse and exploitation; and to participate fully in family, cultural and social life.

The four core principles of the Convention are non-discrimination; devotion to the best interests of the child; the right to life, survival and development; and respect for the views of the child. Every right spelled out in the Convention is inherent to the human dignity and harmonious development of every child. The Convention protects children's rights by setting standards in health care; education; and legal, civil and social services.

By agreeing to undertake the obligations of the Convention (by ratifying or acceding to it), national governments have committed themselves to protecting and ensuring children's rights and they have agreed to hold themselves accountable for this commitment before the international community. States parties to the Convention are obliged to develop and undertake all actions and policies in the light of the best interests of the child.

Source: www.unicef.org

**The Convention on the Rights of the Child* is Save the Children's guide for child centred development



Save the Children

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