

# MISSING SCHOOL

KEEPING SERIOUSLY SICK KIDS CONNECTED

Across Australia every year, hundreds of critically and chronically sick kids are missing school for long periods. Their siblings may also be feeling disconnected. Missing school is not just a physical thing, it's emotional and psychological too. Kids who miss school miss the everyday learning and social experiences that help them build positive futures.

Why does school matter when kids are facing critical medical demands?

Being sick doesn't stop kids from needing to do their most important work: playing, learning and having fun interacting with other kids. Having a seriously sick kid doesn't stop parents from needing schools to do their most important work. And there is no other time that this matters more, because:

- her physical pain is dwarfed by the fear and anxiety of a life-changing diagnosis that keeps her from school
- he feels lonely and "different" from being isolated, for so long, from his friends and normal school routines
- he needs to know that his life is about more than being sick and that he is worth educating because he'll survive
- she hopes she hasn't been abandoned by her teachers and forgotten by her classmates because she isn't at school
- he needs to keep his place within his community of school and friends
- she wishes it wasn't so hard to keep up with learning and fit back into friendships when she's back at school.

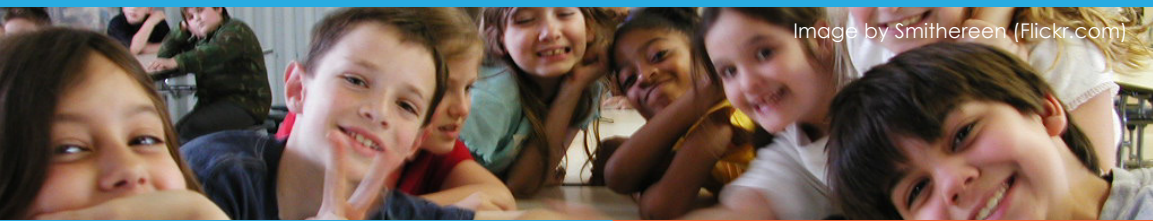


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MissingSchool is about getting the special learning and social needs of seriously sick kids realised through everyday practices in their schools.

To do this, we are drawing together people who care for seriously sick kids, and adding the most important voices—those of the kids and their families. We aim to keep seriously sick kids connected to their schools by:

- supporting families with information, research, resources, strategies and helpful connections
- raising awareness and informing the efforts of educators, health providers, governments, and the community on this issue
- investigating best models and enabling technology
- raising funds for ongoing research and supporting initiatives.

If you are a seriously sick kid, sibling, parent, family, friend, educator, health professional or community member with an interest, please get in touch and join the MissingSchool community here: [www.missingschool.org.au](http://www.missingschool.org.au)

CONNECTING

CLASSROOM

COMMUNITY



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