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## *Help us make a real difference in the lives of our youngest patients this Christmas*

As the Christmas season approaches, we are reminded of the true spirit of giving. At St Vincent's Private Hospital Toowoomba, our goal is to ensure that every patient, no matter their age, receives the best possible care – care that provides comfort, relief and hope.

This year, we need your help to make a real difference in the lives of our youngest patients.

**The challenge we face:** Medical procedures, especially those involving needles, can be deeply distressing for children. In fact, 75% of children, 51% of teenagers and 15% of adults experience significant anxiety during injections and similar treatments. These moments can trigger fear, tears and stress for the patient and their family. This distress can sometimes lead to difficulties during the procedure, increasing the risk of injury to both patients and staff.

**Our solution:** St Gabriel's, our Paediatric Ward, has been trialling an innovative device called the Smileyscope. Smileyscope is a virtual reality system designed to revolutionise how children experience medical procedures like injections. The headset helps patients remain calm and focused by distracting them with visual images,

Smileyscope doesn't just make injections less frightening – it transforms the entire experience. By reducing the need for sedation and restraints, it brings significant relief to both patients and caregivers, allowing clinicians to perform treatments with less stress and fewer interruptions.

The benefits of Smileyscope extend beyond injections. It's now being used for a wide range of procedures, from burn dressings to medical imaging, allowing us to improve care across the board. For many children in our care, this technology has redefined their medical journey.

**Better and fairer care.**  
**Always.**

Under the stewardship of Mary Aikenhead Ministries

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**Supporting**

St Vincent's Care  
St Vincent's Private Hospital Brisbane  
St Vincent's Private Hospital Northside  
St Vincent's Private Hospital Toowoomba

**What your support would mean:** To bring this comfort and relief to our patients, we are raising \$6,270 to purchase a Smileyscope device for our Paediatric Ward..

By contributing to our 2024 Christmas Appeal, you will be directly improving the lives of young patients in our care. You'll be helping to reduce the fear and trauma associated with procedures like injections and giving our clinicians a valuable tool that enhances their ability to provide compassionate care.

**Why your support matters:** We ask you to consider making a donation to help us purchase the Smileyscope for St Vincent's Private Hospital Toowoomba. Every dollar brings us closer to our goal of \$6,270, ensuring that we can continue to provide comfort, care and cutting-edge technology to our youngest patients when they need it most.

Together, we can make this festive season a little brighter for the children in our care and give them the gift of peace and relief.

Wishing you a Christmas filled with joy, love and the warmth of giving.

With festive gratitude,



**Malcolm Casey**

*Interim General Manager / Director of Clinical Services*  
St Vincent's Private Hospital Toowoomba

**P.S. Your support means so much to us. You can make a donation today by returning the enclosed coupon in the reply envelope provided, phoning 1800 161 197, or going to [www.helpstvincentsqld.org.au](http://www.helpstvincentsqld.org.au) and clicking on our 2024 Christmas Appeal button.**

St Vincent's  
Foundation  
Queensland

2024  
*Christmas  
Appeal*



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Better and fairer care. Always.