

Bear Cottage – Facts and Figures

- Bear Cottage is a children's hospice built in 2001. The cost of building was close to \$10 million – all of it raised by the community. It is the only children's hospice in NSW and the only one in the world affiliated with a Children's Hospital.
- Bear Cottage receives no State Government Funding and a small one-off grant of \$30,000 from the Federal Government.
- It is expected that Bear Cottage costs for 2007-08 will be close to \$2 million dollars a year to run. This only allows us to use six of the ten beds we have for children with life limiting diseases.
- In 2005-2006 income from donations was \$900,000 and in 2006-2007 the total amount was \$1.2 million. The balance is made up from donations which are untagged from The Children's Hospital at Westmead.
- We need to raise sufficient funds in the next financial to fully cover all operational expenses for Bear Cottage.
- At the same time we are hoping to move forward with extra services at Bear Cottage in response to a major study of our families. This will be an additional burden on finances..
- In 2007 we had 294 admissions for respite and end of life care. We also have over 1200 family members (parents, grandparents and siblings). A child with a life limiting disease can be admitted to Bear Cottage either alone or with family members.
- We have 70 dedicated volunteers who put in more than 65 hours each week assisting in all areas of the cottage. This includes working with the children, cooking, office work, driving, cleaning and many other tasks. Without these we would be less efficient and our costs would be much higher.
- We also have a large number of corporations and businesses who allow their staff to come to Bear Cottage for working bees This helps tremendously with maintenance on the building and grounds.