



Level 1, 470 King Street  
Newcastle West NSW 2302

Phone: (02) 4925 4482  
Email: [info@hunternet.com.au](mailto:info@hunternet.com.au)

Innovation

Collaboration

Networking

6<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Sharon Claydon  
MP  
427 Hunter Street  
Newcastle  
NSW 2300  
Via email: [sharon.claydon.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:sharon.claydon.mp@aph.gov.au)

## **RMHC 2025-26 Pre-Budget Submission**

Dear Sharon,

We write to you in support of one of HunterNet's Charity Partners, Ronald McDonald House.

We understand you took the time to visit them at the Newcastle Ronald McDonald House on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February. We understand they were able to show you their House and family rooms and introduce you to some of their volunteers, as well as the families who use the services.

We understand Ronald McDonald House Charities has made a 2025-26 national pre-budget submission where they have sought a \$37.5 million commitment from the Federal Government over the next four years towards six essential infrastructure projects in areas of critical need. This commitment would allow RMHC to progress and complete essential health infrastructure to meet the growing demand of families in need, bringing wide-ranging social and economic benefits by reducing financial burden on families, improving the health outcomes of sick and injured children, supporting the wellbeing and cohesion of their families, and boosting local jobs.

One of the key funding priorities in the national pre-budget submission is an investment of \$2 million towards an \$8 million expansion of their existing Ronald McDonald House supporting the John Hunter Children's Hospital in Newcastle. Statistics gathered by RMHC Northern NSW show that their House currently operates at 91% occupancy and turns away an average of 6 families with sick children every day. This equates to over 2,200 nights for families that are unmet and over 300 different families who are not supported across a calendar year.

The completion of this project will see an additional 11 self-contained units added to the existing 18-unit Ronald McDonald House in the grounds of John Hunter Hospital. This will



Level 1, 470 King Street  
Newcastle West NSW 2302

Phone: (02) 4925 4482  
Email: [info@hunternet.com.au](mailto:info@hunternet.com.au)

allow them to provide an additional 3,200 nights of accommodation for families with sick children, addressing their current unmet need and providing for the future.

HunterNet is proud to have RMHC on board as a Charity Partner/Member and we fully support their submission and please accept this letter as our advocacy support for this very important initiative.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Tolley  
Chair of the Board  
HunterNet Co-operative Ltd

Ivan Waterfield  
Chief Executive Officer  
HunterNet Co-operative Ltd