

From: Humpty Dumpty Foundation <humpty@humpty.com.au>
Subject: {Disarmed} Good News / Bad News
Date: 14 December 2015 4:06:20 PM AEDT
To: [REDACTED]
Reply-To: humpty@humpty.com.au



Dear Good Eggs,

I write to wish you a very Merry Christmas and all the best for the new year. Thank you for your support of the Humpty Dumpty Foundation in 2015, whether it was by attending a Humpty event, donating a piece of medical equipment from Humpty's Wish List, making a donation or simply keeping up to date with Humpty's work, we thank you for your support and interest.

It has been another terrific year for the charity; one in which at time of writing, **Humpty has been able purchase 412 pieces of medical equipment worth more than \$3.5 million.** Humpty now supports **254 hospitals around Australia**, with 187 of them located in New South Wales. Every day, the equipment donated helps save the lives of children right across our magnificent country.

That is why I would like to take this opportunity to update you on a recent report in *The Sydney Morning Herald*, which contains several factual errors and distorts the financial position of the Humpty Dumpty Foundation.

Together with **Humpty Patron, Ray Martin AM**, and the **Founder of the Balmoral Burn, Phil Kearns**, I wrote to the Chairman of Fairfax Media and its Board of Directors, as well as the company's Chief Executive Officer, Greg Hywood, and the newspaper's Editor-in-Chief, Darren Goodsir, outlining the inaccuracies.

Let me clarify the situation for you.

The article questioned the generous intentions of donors and misrepresented the concept of "pledges", stating these amounts "may

never be honoured". **This is factually wrong.** Any pledge income shown in the charity's financial reports has been paid by our donors, and is used to purchase and deliver life saving medical equipment that has been chosen for a nominated hospital.

The article wrongly stated the Foundation can only make distributions to hospitals from its surplus/profit. In fact, the surplus reported in the financial statements is **after** the Foundation has made donations of equipment to hospitals.

The Wish List "pledge" is a unique element of Humpty's model and enables donors to purchase a specific item nominated by medical staff from 254 hospitals around Australia. Humpty's Medical Sub-Committee, comprised of leading paediatricians, a member of the NSW Health Department, and Humpty board members, assess the items' suitability for inclusion in the Wish List.

Between 1996 and December 2014, HDF has purchased medical equipment worth more than \$20 million. Outside of the NSW Government, the charity is the largest supplier of children's medical equipment in this state.

The Foundation's financial reports were clearly outlined to the *Herald* in a comprehensive document prepared by Breene & Breene Solicitors with the assistance of the Foundation's chartered accountants, Crispin & Jeffery. It noted that Humpty has been audited and reviewed by private and public bodies on a number of occasions with no negative findings made.

In an email to one of Humpty's great supporters, the offending *Herald* journalist admitted he "was unsure as to how the accounting worked" and added that "it may be that some clarification is in order".

Let me assure you, Humpty's Management and Board take this article seriously because it casts a shadow over all donors and potential donors of equipment to hospitals, which we find deplorable. I will keep you informed as to any response from Fairfax Media. Our priorities are our fidelity to our donors, and our singular purpose of delivering life saving medical equipment to children's hospitals around Australia.

The great tragedy is that children in hospital across Australia, may have been placed at risk because people may now be discouraged from buying a piece of life saving equipment as a result of the inflammatory report. Our proud 25 year history cannot be tainted by poor journalism, and with your support we will continue to help children in hospitals right across Australia. I sincerely ask that you continue supporting Humpty.

Yours sincerely,

PAUL FRANCIS OAM
Executive Chairman & Founder

Humpty Dumpty Foundation

P.S. I have just been advised that Fairfax Media will be issuing an apology to Humpty, we will keep you informed.

If you would like to send an email to the Editor-in-Chief of the Sydney Morning Herald, please email dgoodsir@fairfaxmedia.com.au

Humpty Dumpty Foundation

The Humpty Dumpty Foundation raises money to purchase vital children's medical equipment for 254 hospitals and health service centres across Australia. It is our aim to ensure every child has a fighting chance to the best possible medical equipment and care. [Learn More.](#)



Thank you.

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