**November 2021IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**AVA’S WISH COMES TRUE WITH THE HELP OF BAROSSA VALLEY LOCALS**

Right now, due to the impacts of COVID-19, Make-A-Wish Australia has more than 800 seriously ill children waiting for their life-changing Wish.

Volunteers at the Make-A-Wish Barossa Valley Branch in South Australia have recently helped grant a wish for five-year-old Ava, who is undergoing regular treatment for Wilms tumour, a rare form of kidney cancer.

Ava’s wish was to have her very own backyard cubby house; a happy place to play and have fun with her two older siblings, whom she adores.

Ava’s mum Megan said that the cubby is the perfect escape for Ava “to take her mind off her ongoing cancer battle.”

Knowing how much Ava loves butterflies, the Barossa Valley Wish Force sent Ava lots of butterfly stickers in the lead up to the cubby house being built.

“Ava was so excited receiving her butterfly parcels, she was constantly telling everyone about her wish and how amazing her cubby was going to be,” Megan said.

On the day of Ava’s cubby house reveal, the Barossa Valley volunteers also dressed up as Ava’s favourite character Rapunzel and helped her to decorate the cubby house with the stickers they sent.

“Make-A-Wish has brought so much joy to our family, and we will be forever grateful to the volunteers,” Megan said.

“There aren’t enough words in the English dictionary to fully describe how I felt when Ava received her cubby house.”

Designed especially for Ava, the cubby was fitted with two slides, is rainbow coloured and big enough to fit Ava and her brother and sister, who are both teenagers.

To date, the Barossa Valley Make-A-Wish branch has granted over 65 life-changing wishes for sick children across the region and currently has another six wishes waiting to be granted.

CEO of Make-A-Wish Australia, Sally Bateman, said volunteers play a vital role in making wishes come true.

“When you join our volunteer Wish Force, you become part of the world’s largest wish-granting charity – with endless opportunities to make a difference in the lives of sick children, their families and local communities,” said Ms Bateman.

“We hope by sharing Ava’s story and the amazing work of the Wish Force at our Barossa Valley Branch, we can highlight the lasting impact that wishes have on seriously ill children and their families.”

Wish fulfillments can range from welcoming a puppy to the family to being a superhero or going on a trip to the snow, every wish is as unique as the child who imagines it.

 The Make-A-Wish Barossa Valley Branch is currently seeking volunteers – for more information or to register your interest please visit: [www.makeawish.org.au](http://www.makeawish.org.au)

To gift a wish this Christmas to help children like Ava, please visit [www.makeawish.org.au](http://www.makeawish.org.au)

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**About Make-A-Wish Australia**

Make-A-Wish Australia is part of the world’s largest wish-granting organisation and brings the local community together to grant the life-changing wishes of children with critical illnesses. Since 1985 it has delivered more than 10,000 unforgettable wishes to children around the country. From the incredibly humble to the seemingly impossible – the Wish Force has made unicorns fly, sent kids to the moon and even brought dinosaurs back from extinction. Over the past five years, Make-A-Wish Australia has led the world in the adoption of the Wish Journey, a carefully curated program which focuses on wish capture and design, building anticipation for each child ahead of their one true wish being realised. In December 2020, Make-A-Wish was incredibly proud to again place among Australia's most reputable charities.