Supporting children with a hand difference

Childrens' Hand Research Group (CHaRG)

Help us make a difference

Being born with a hand or arm that is different is common, affecting over 500 children born in Australia every year.

We are just beginning to understand how hand differences affect these children. We need to know more about the causes and impacts of hand differences on children and families. We also need to find out more about which treatments work.

If you would like to support this cause, you can make a donation via the QR code at the end of this sheet. We understand that not everyone is able to give money, and we are grateful for any help you might be able to give.

Australian Hand Difference Register

What is a Hand Difference and why do they matter?

Congenital Hand or Upper Limb Differences (CULD) occur when the hand and/or arm are forming during pregnancy. They can result in the hand or arm having missing or extra parts, or having too much, or too little growth of part or all of the hand and/or arm.

The hand is a child's key point of contact with the external world and is vital for their development as they explore their environment. More than this, the hand plays an important role in communication and using technology that is becoming more common in our day-to-day life. Children with hand differences are known to adapt well, but challenges remain.

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Australian Hand Difference Register (AHDR) - our window to children with hand differences

The Australian Hand Difference Register (AHDR) was established by researchers at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute with hand surgeons and health care professionals across Australia. This database allows researchers to follow children born with congenital hand differences throughout their childhood and as they grow into adults. It plays a key role in generating knowledge about children with this complex and varied group of conditions.

Using information from the AHDR, we can now begin to answer questions about the causes and impact of hand differences and their treatments. With this new knowledge, we are well-placed to improve care and give every child the best possible outcome.

Help support the AHDR and Childrens' Hand Research

Research needs funding to keep the register running and to undertake projects that will have a direct impact on the lives of children with hand differences.

We have a dedicated team of doctors, therapists and researchers who, with funding, will have the time and resources to concentrate on this critical research. This will give families more informed choices, improve outcomes of treatments, and help to relieve the anxiety of parents and their children about what their hand difference will mean for them and their future.

Help support the AHDR and give children with a hand difference the best possible outcome by donating today via the QR code.

All donations over $2 will receive a tax-deductible receipt.

Contact us

To learn more about how you can support the AHDR contact the Philanthropy Team at MCRI on philanthropy@mcri.edu.au for an in-depth conversation about your giving.

murdoch children's research institute

How can I join the AHDR?

If your child was born with a hand or arm difference, they can be included on the AHDR with parental/guardian consent.

Please contact the AHDR for a Participant Information Statement and Consent Form.

Phone: (03) 9936 6766

Email: ahdr@mcri.edu.au

Post: AHDR, PO Box 907, Parkville, VIC 3052