



*Radio Lollipop is unique.
It's exciting.
It's stimulating.
It's entertaining...*

and it's for children in hospital!

☺ *What is Radio Lollipop?*

Radio Lollipop is an international children's charity, which provides Care, Comfort, Play and Entertainment to sick children in hospital and their families. It is run entirely by volunteers who operate an in-house radio station and undertake fun play activities on the wards with the children!

We pride ourselves on being professional with volunteers who are conscientious, reliable and prepared to make a weekly commitment. Radio Lollipop is FUN but professional.

☺ *Where did it start?*

Radio Lollipop originated in 1978 at Queen Mary's Hospital for Children in Carshalton, Surrey in the United Kingdom. Designed to bring the joy of entertainment to sick children, the idea captured the imagination of the world, so that now there are Radio Lollipops located in **United Kingdom:** Birmingham, Bristol, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Manchester; **New Zealand:** Auckland and Middlemore; **Australia:** Perth, Fremantle, Joondalup, ourselves in Brisbane, Logan and Gold Coast, and in the **USA:** Miami and Houston.

☺ *When does it operate?*

The station and ward activities operate:

Mater Children's Hospital

Monday - Friday 5.30 pm - 7.30 pm
Saturday 2.30 pm - 5.00 pm

Logan Hospital

Monday - Wednesday 5.30 pm - 7.30 pm

Gold Coast Hospital

Wednesday & Thursday
Saturday

☺ *What do volunteers do?*

Each volunteer works on the wards with the children reading stories, playing games, helping with craft activities and competitions. But most importantly we provide companionship and a friend to talk to. Play serves as a means of alleviating boredom, stress, anger and fear felt by a child during their hospital stay.

As well as working on the wards with the children, Radio Lollipop also has an in-house radio studio in the hospital providing an entertainment service. Programs are presented by the volunteers with contributions from the children. The radio programs can be heard on the wards via their television and everyone can share in the fun, the requests, the stories and the competitions. The children can

respond instantly by using the telephone next to their beds. Whilst there is no radio studio at the Logan Hospital, there is a large playroom, outfitted in an "Enchanted Forest" theme, for the volunteers and children to play in.

It must be remember that Radio Lollipop exists for the sake of helping sick children through laughter and play. Volunteers DO NOT provide medical advice or attention and should never get in the way of the hospital staff performing their duties.

Volunteers commence service with Radio Lollipop with a six month probationary or trial period. This allows them the opportunity to leave if they find it is not for them, or if the management team finds that a particular volunteer is not suitable for this type of charity work. As Radio Lollipop provides an important service its volunteers must carry out their ward visiting duties with a mature outlook and a responsible manner.

☺ ***What else is involved?***

Radio Lollipop volunteers are trained by health-related professionals and experienced Radio Lollipop volunteers. Volunteer meetings are held regularly to provide volunteers with additional information and training.

An annual subscription fee of \$10.00 covers administrative costs. Volunteers wear a uniform, which consists of a Radio Lollipop T-shirt / sweatshirt, plain denim jeans or plain navy shorts / pants and white, soft-soled shoes. Volunteers are also issued with an Identification Card for security purposes. This card remains the property of the hospital and, together with your volunteer t-shirt, must be returned if you cease your duties with Radio Lollipop. It is essential that both the correct uniform and the ID are worn whilst on the wards, in the studio, and at fundraising or public events where Radio Lollipop is being featured.

☺ ***Radio?***

The radio is just one of the toys out of our toy box, providing stimulation for young and active minds. Volunteers will only have the opportunity of becoming a presenter after they have worked on the wards for several months. Announcers are volunteers who have the children as their number one focus, rather than a career in the entertainment industry.

☺ ***How?***

Applicants complete the application form enclosed and will be called into the hospital for an interview. If successful, Radio Lollipop will obtain a blue card security clearance. The successful applicant will be required to attend an induction day and have received their blue card before they are allowed on the ward with an experienced Radio Lollipop volunteer.