



Media Release
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NRL BEANIE FOR BRAIN CANCER ROUND 2022 RAISES \$4 MILLION

THE BIG THREE TREK RAISES OVER \$177,000

2022 MHF BEANIES ON TRACK TO SELL OUT WITH OVER 170,000 SOLD

Australians have hit back at Brain Cancer with an incredible \$4 million raised across *NRL Beanie for Brain Cancer Round* this week by the Mark Hughes Foundation, with donations still coming in.

This year's campaign urged fans to buy an MHF Beanie online or at Lowes and selected IGA stores, or donate with the aim of raising \$3 million for research, which was surpassed today.

MHF Founder, **Mark Hughes**, said: "This year our thoughts are first and foremost with the families that have been through the brain cancer journey and lost a loved one. The courage these families show in still being by our side after their loss, and to want to help others is so inspiring. They are on our minds as we continue on our quest to find the answers to this horrible disease."

"Behind the scenes there are so many people who give so much to make this round happen. I would like to acknowledge the NRL, Nine, Fox League and all the staff and media for coming together for our cause and helping the message reach so many Australians. I'd also like to make mention of my small MHF team and amazing volunteers who work around the clock to bring this round to life. There's now \$4 million dollars going direct to brain cancer research because of every Australian that chose to make a difference this week."

NRL CEO, **Andrew Abdo**, said: "This round has been a great example of the game coming together to make a positive difference.

"Thank you to everyone in the community for contributing and congratulations to the Mark Hughes Foundation on this year's achievements. Together we are raising awareness and raising funds to enable research to fight brain cancer and help save lives."

Significant financial contributions were made throughout Beanie Round that pushed the final amount above expectations. **Forming the Big Three Trek, 45 trekkers departed NRL HQ in Sydney on Wednesday to walk 150km across three days to Newcastle, raising \$177,000 for MHF.**

170,000 MHF Beanie's were sold during the Beanie for Brain Cancer campaign and are on track to sell out within the next week.

Sportsbet donated \$58,000 after 58 tries were scored in Round 16 (\$1000 per try).

The beginning of the week saw the Foundation launch the brand new \$25 million MHF Centre for Brain Cancer Research at the University of Newcastle. This dedicated space for brain cancer sees researchers come together under one roof to collaborate and find a cure. This type of announcement doesn't exist without the NRL, rugby league and wider community bringing brain cancer to the forefront raising awareness and funds and giving hope to every brain cancer patient and family out there.

Brain Cancer statistics

- Survival rates have increased by 1% over the last 30 years
- Kills more children than any other disease
- Only 2/10 people diagnosed will live more than 5 years
- Kills more people under 40 than any other cancer
- Receives less than 5% of federal funding for cancer research
- One person every 5 hours is diagnosed in Australia

CLICK HERE FOR BEANIE ROUND 2022 IMAGES

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/zjqdv4r39x3inkg/AAAouxt_f2EQP1-s2OoqhSw5a?dl=0

About NRL Beanie Round and MHF

2022 is the sixth *NRL Beanie for Brain Cancer Round* since it began in 2017. The officially themed NRL round was the idea of former Channel 9 NRL producer Matt Callander in collaboration with MHF, who bravely battled a stage 4 Glioblastoma himself. He sadly lost his battle with brain cancer in October 2017.

The Mark Hughes Foundation (MHF) is a charity formed in Newcastle by Mark and Kirralee Hughes following Mark's diagnosis with Brain Cancer in 2013. The Mark Hughes Foundation's mission is to raise much needed funds for research, to create awareness and support brain cancer patients and their families.

#MHFBeanie

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