

Media Release: Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2009

**Barnardos kids bear flags and escort players at world class sporting event**

Barnardos Australia with the help of the ING Foundation, sent 40 kids to participate in a once in life time opportunity bearing flags and escorting players onto the field for a match hosted by the Football Federation Australia between Australia and Bahrain at Stadium Australia on 10<sup>th</sup> June.

Barnardos Australia was thrilled to be able to give 40 children from some of Australia's most disadvantaged backgrounds a chance to wear the uniform and carry the team flags as they kicked off one of Australia's premier sporting events, the 2010 FIFA World Cup Asian Qualifiers.

Barnardos centres in Auburn, Marrickville and Penrith approached the local families they support to offer their children a chance to participate and the response was overwhelming.

"When Barnardos Australia was approached by the ING Foundation to invite some of our kids to participate at this world class event, we were delighted," said Bill Petch, Barnardos Australia.

"The children who participated ranged in age from 4 to 20 years and given their underprivileged background, would never have an opportunity such as this without our corporate supporter ING Foundation.

"Barnardos Australia believes in kids and it is by providing kids with these sorts of opportunities that allows them to experience the direct generosity and support offered by the community and our corporate partners.

"Sometimes all it takes is to show a child there can be opportunity to realise their dreams, which then allows them to grow and fulfill their potential" added Petch.

"Many families are struggling in these difficult economic times and ING is proud to be able to offer this special experience to children whose families may be doing it tough." said Shannon Carruth, manager of the ING Foundation. "We were thrilled to be able to offer these children a chance to meet their sporting heroes and to give them a once in a lifetime experience they will remember for a long time to come."

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**For more information contact: Emma Lipscombe [events@barnardos.org.au](mailto:events@barnardos.org.au) or 0412 468 921**

**Notes for editors:**

Barnardos Australia is a non-government, non-denominational child welfare charity that has been helping children in need for over 120 years.

Barnardos is one of the largest children's charities in Australia, caring for children at risk of abuse and neglect. The work of Barnardos Australia focuses on the prevention of abuse, neglect and entry into care. Children of all backgrounds and cultural heritage are helped through a range of welfare programs including crisis care, family support, counselling and permanent foster care.

*Our vision is that all children and young people will have caring families, in which they can grow up safely and reach their full potential supported by quality services and engaged communities.*

For more information visit: [www.barnardos.org.au](http://www.barnardos.org.au).

**ING Foundation**

ING is actively involved in the community, supporting a range of Australian charities through the ING Foundation.

The ING Foundation was established in 1978 to make a difference to the lives of disadvantaged Australians. It currently partners with three charitable organisations, including Barnardos, and manages a program of financial grants to organisations supporting children in need.