

Tuesday 30th August 2011



Eamon Sullivan and Barnardos Swim Safe

Children from the Family Support program at our Barnardos Australia's Auburn centre met Olympic swimmer and Uncle Tobys ambassador, Eamon Sullivan.

The delighted children not only had the opportunity to meet Eamon, they participated with him in the filming of Royal Life Saving's latest water safety community service announcement (CSA).

The CSA was filmed at Knox Grammar School's new pool in Sydney; children were amazed by the facility and honoured to meet again their favourite swimming sensation. Royal Life Saving will continue to support some of Australia's most disadvantaged children and young people by providing access to free water safety and swimming lessons throughout 2011 and 2012.

"We are so grateful that Barnardos kids are going to get further free swimming lessons, 10 week programs and we sincerely thank Eamon Sullivan for his time and Royal Life Saving for their generosity," said Mary Haiek, program manager at Barnardos' Auburn centre. "These kids' families could never afford to pay for such an activity, so up until now they have never had a swimming lesson or even learnt basic water safety.

Barnardos Australia, by means of a collaborative approach with other smaller welfare agencies, will continue to work with Royal Life Saving to provide similar opportunities to Australia's most vulnerable and severely disadvantaged children.

"Like Barnardos we at Royal Life Saving believe in children, and that every child should have an opportunity to grown and learn in a safe environment in order to reach their full potential," said Rob Bradley, CEO of Royal Life Saving. "These swimming lessons are vital for these kids to learn lifesaving water safety and we hope to offer this ongoing support to children from Barnardos."

Eamon, the charming and charitable man that he is, delighted the kids further when he remembered them and asked them how their swimming was going. Eamon had met the kids in 2010 when they took part in one of the first complimentary 10 week Royal Life Saving 'Swim and Survive' water safety programs.

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Notes for editors:

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

Barnardos Australia is one of the largest children's charities in the country, caring for children and young people at risk of abuse and neglect. The work of Barnardos Australia focuses on the prevention of abuse and neglect and entry into care. Children and young people 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.