

Media Release: Thursday 25th June 2009

Local Charity Barnardos to receive proceeds from a charity auction held by Westfield Penrith

Barnardos, one of Australia's largest children's charities is appealing to the community and beyond, to not only attend but bid at a charity auction being held at Westfield Penrith at 11am on Saturday 27th June, to raise crucial funds for Barnardos programs for children and young people with disabilities in the local area .

Barnardos Australia believes in children and ensures that the funds raised on the day will give children and young people with disabilities the chance to learn, grow, socialise and experience activities they would never have the opportunity to do with their families.

Barnardos Australia asks the community to show that they too believe in children and Australia's future by bidding on any number of fantastic items being auctioned on the day by Michael Caton, celebrity auctioneer. The good and services have been most generously donated by many of the retailers in Westfield Penrith Shopping centre who are keen to join Westfield in supporting this cause and also to show their desire to give back to the local community.

Michael Caton said the range of donated prizes was impressive and he was sure people would dig deep on the day to help raise as much money as possible for Barnardos Australia.

"Whether you need temporary day care whilst you have a manicure to compliment your new cocktail dress, bag and pearls or a remote controlled car, there is something for everyone, said Michael Caton.

"So we are encouraging as many people as possible to come along and bid, the more money raised means vital services can continue to be delivered to the many children and young people with disabilities that Barnardos Australia helps every week. Every dollar raised means that Barnardos Australia can go on enabling children and young people with disabilities to fulfill their potential."

Erin Austin Marketing Manager at Westfield Penrith commented "We are committed to developing our partnership with Barnardos in Penrith as we begin to build an understanding of the disability sector and increase our support and involvement with these children and their families."

Bill Petch from Barnardos Australia said that as times become financially tougher, it becomes increasingly difficult and in some cases desperate to raise the funds required to continue to care for Australia's children.

"Everyone is feeling the pinch one way or another from the financial crisis but people may not realise that the families and children we help have never known it to be any different and it is only getting so much worse," Mr Petch said.

"Barnardos relies heavily on corporate and community support and that is why events like this, and the support of companies like Westfield, are crucial in raising the funds required to continue to deliver our welfare programs and prevent further closures."

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For more information contact: Emma Lipscombe PR and events 0412 468921

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, disability 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.