Media Release

10 February 2015

MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY AUSTRALIA

Disability Fun Run this Sunday hosted by TV journalist

This Sunday, 15 February, will see people from all walks of life including many members of the Muscular Dystrophy (MD) community flock to Albert Park Lake to take on the annual 'MDA Run for Strength' and the event will be emceed by well-known *Seven News* television journalist, Kristy Mayr.

"It is an absolute honour to have Kristy as our host for this year's event as it is always encouraging to have high profile people take notice of Muscular Dystrophy and understand the need to raise awareness about this life-threatening condition which currently affects 1 in 1,000 people globally," said Muscular Dystrophy Australia's (MDA) Executive Director, Boris M Struk.

More than 1,000 people are expected to attend with some people participating in wheelchairs and others will be travelling from all throughout Victoria. In particular, a group of 60 people will be jumping on a hired bus from Ballarat to Melbourne to show their support for two young boys from their community who have recently been diagnosed with the muscle-destroying condition Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD).

Joanne Phelps, the aunty of the two young boys, is the instigator behind this spectacular show of community spirit and she is hoping to fill the entire bus to capacity in order to have as many people as possible to participate in the event.

The proceeds from MDA's sixth annual Fun Run will be going towards MD programs, services and research at the National Muscular Dystrophy Research Centre (NMDRC).

"It is an absolute privilege to have this group from Ballarat join together to run as a team in support of the two young brothers living with DMD from their local community," said Mr Struk.

"At present there is no cure for Muscular Dystrophy and very little government funding for research, that is why we host this annual event to garner support and much needed funds so we can give hope to the MD community that a solution may not be too far away," said Mr Struk.

Since its inception in 1984, MDA has provided more than half a million hours of respite for those in the community affected by Muscular Dystrophy, as well as over 110,000 hours of the support program *'Futures'* and more than 150,000 hours of student placement representing more than 4,500 tertiary education students supporting *CampMDA*.

"In total MDA has been able to provide in excess of 1 million hours of care and support for people with Muscular Dystrophy and so we welcome any help we are able to receive from the general public and businesses," said Mr Struk.

"The event is superhero-themed to signify all of our superheroes within the MD community so it will be fantastic day with loads of Lycra, colour and smiles. The event starts at 8.00am and you can register for only $30 on the day for the 5km walk, 5km run or 10km run," said Mr Struk.

For more information you can call MDA on (03) 9320 9555 or visit the event website at:
http://www.challengemd.org/rfs2015/

Photo and interview opportunities:

Pre-event:
Photos of groups of people who will be participating in the event. The event is superhero-themed so they are willing to dress up in capes/costumes if preferred.
At the event:
There is the opportunity to take an entire event participants photo, a photo/interview with the MDA Executive Director and individual families.

To arrange either a pre-event or event day media opportunity, please contact:

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