Media Release

5 August 2014

Local charity hero nominated for Australian of the Year Award

Muscular Dystrophy Australia's (MDA) Executive Director, Boris M Struk, has been nominated for both the 2015 Australian of the Year Award and the 2015 Australia's Local Hero Award.

"It is a true honour to be nominated for both of these awards and I would like to thank the local community for supporting me in this acknowledgement of my work in founding MDA," said Mr Struk.

In an early show of recognition for Boris, the Australian of the Year Awards profiled his nomination on their social media page which led the way for an outpouring of support from hundreds of people across the country.

Boris has been nominated for the two aforementioned awards out of the total four awards, with the other two remaining categories being the 2015 Young Australian of the Year and 2015 Senior Australian of the Year.

The Victorian Australian of the Year Awards panel will be meeting soon to discuss all nominations from Victoria, with the panel consisting of representatives from the: National Australia Day Council Board, sponsors and local community.

There will be four Victorian finalists for each of the four award categories and these sixteen people will be contacted in October 2014.

This group will then be drawn down to just one Victorian recipient of each award in early November and these four Victorians will then join all other state recipients at a national ceremony to announce the winner in Canberra on 25 January 2015.

"My passion for helping the Muscular Dystrophy community has stemmed from a personal connection as my son Ryan, 34, has the muscle wasting disorder which currently affects one in 1,000 people globally," said Mr Struk.

Boris founded MDA over 30 years ago when his son Ryan was just three years old and diagnosed with the condition Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.

"It was a rude awakening into the world of MD as the doctor just told me to go home and enjoy my son because he'd be dead by the age of 14. There was no information provided to me, only a two line paragraph describing the disorder from an outdated medical book," said Mr Struk.

"30 years on and it is sometimes hard to fathom how far MDA has come in helping the national MD community. We provide research, care, services and programs to families with a member affected by the disorder from the second they receive the diagnosis, something I so desperately yearned for my own family all those years ago," said Mr Struk.

To arrange an interview with Muscular Dystrophy Australia Executive Director, Boris M Struk, please contact:

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