Media Release

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A train ride worth more than gold for a group of people living with MD

Tomorrow will be a wonderful day in the lives of a group of children and adults living with Muscular Dystrophy as they board the Victorian Goldfields Railway for a memorable steam train ride as part of the 93rd *CampMDA*.

"We commend the railway for having such wheelchair-friendly facilities, as it is not always easy to find activities that are suitable for a sizeable group with multiple wheelchairs," said Muscular Dystrophy Australia's Executive Director, Boris M Struk.

The Victorian Goldfields Railway runs through the Goldfields of Central Victoria linking the historic towns of Castlemaine to Maldon, showcasing some of the richest gold mining areas in Australia.

Over 25 people are participating in *CampMDA* with the age group of people affected by MD ranging from six to 30-years-old.

"Camp is a fantastic opportunity for those in the MD community to get together and socialise without the stress of having to arrange activities themselves. It also provides a chance for the families of the participants to have a break and know their loved one is being taken care of," said Mr Struk.

"Holidays are something that most of us take for granted but for the families of someone living with MD it can be a challenging undertaking planning a trip down to every detail to ensure all locations will have appropriate disability facilities and in some cases, complete wheelchair accessibility," 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 volunteering at *CampMDA*.

Other notable activities organised by *CampMDA* in previous years have been: a sky-high performance by the Royal Australian Air Force Roulettes, laser skirmish, interactive displays from the CFA fire fighters, Harley-Davidson motorbike rides, belly-dancers, and snake displays; amongst many others.

The camp is being held from 6 – 10 April at Derby Hill in Maldon with the train ride commencing at 10.30am Wednesday 9 April from Maldon station and finishing at Castlemaine just after 11am. The group will also be leaving Castlemaine around 3.30pm.

Media are welcome to meet the group at either end of their train journey for a photo opportunity and MDA's Executive Director, Boris M Struk, will also be available for interviews.

To arrange an interview or photo opportunity please contact:

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