



MEDIA RELEASE

18th November 2015

Chris Hemsworth and Sydney's community raise over \$275,000 for the Australian Childhood Foundation

Eight hundred invited guests showed their support last night at Audi's exclusive screening of *In the Heart of the Sea* to raise funds and awareness for the Australian Childhood Foundation.

Chris Hemsworth, star of *In the Heart of the Sea* and Australian Childhood Foundation patron, was joined by over 800 Sydneysiders for Audi's special event screening to help launch the Foundation's first specialised Children's Trauma Recovery Centre in Sydney. This centre will support children who have suffered from abuse, family violence and neglect.

This event is part of a nationwide initiative to create Child Trauma Recovery Centres in every state and territory. The Sydney event follows the launch in Tasmania of a fundraising campaign to create the first of these centres in Hobart, with significant funds being donated by the Nikitaras Family – owners of Tasmania's premier food and produce retailer, Hill Street Grocer. The centre in Hobart, which has also been supported with generous help from other local businesses and individuals, is due to commence construction in early 2016.

"Traumatised children need relationships they can depend on. They need a specialist team of people around them who know how to help them. Most importantly, they need a community that cares for them and will stand by them," said Dr Joe Tucci, CEO of the Australian Childhood Foundation.

"The Foundation is focused on helping the roughly 40,500 children around Australia who sleep away from their home every night because their safety cannot be guaranteed.

"We need \$1.5 million to open the centre and last night's event is a great start to help us achieve this. We look forward to building an ongoing relationship with the Sydney community to help us support the children.

"Children who have been abused are not a problem that can be looked after by someone else. They are our community's children – in need of love, safety and a sense of belonging. They are our children and they need us," Dr Tucci said.

The gala event in Sydney raised \$275,000 as a result of the generosity of the individuals and businesses who attended.

Dr Tucci said, "All of us who work with these highly vulnerable children at the Foundation are so grateful to Audi Australia, Roar management, Warner Bros Pictures and Village Roadshow Pictures, along with the tremendous support from our patron Chris Hemsworth for making the evening such a wonderful success."

"Audi is thrilled to be a part of such a special evening not only to support our newest ambassador Chris Hemsworth but also a charity that does such wonderful work in our community," says Andrew Doyle, Managing Director, Audi Australia.

It is so critical that the community also supports the Foundation's effort to raise funds for the programs that work directly with children to help to heal the trauma of abuse, family violence



and neglect. To donate or get involved with supporting the Foundation, visit our website www.childhood.org.au.

For further information for media or for an interview with Dr Joe Tucci, please contact;

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Notes to editor

The Australian Childhood Foundation is committed to creating a national network of community based therapy centres to provide children with the specialist help they need to recover from their experiences of violation and hurt. This network of Trauma Recovery Centres will offer a suite of intensive and innovative programs for vulnerable children in each state. The intervention offered will also reach families, carers and the many professionals that are part of these children's lives. Each Centre will become a local hub for trauma based therapeutic support, group work and training.

Dr Joe Tucci is the Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Childhood Foundation. Dr Tucci is a registered psychologist and social worker with over 25 years of experience in child protection and working therapeutically with abused and traumatised children.

The Australian Childhood Foundation relies on the support of the whole community to enable it to continue the following programs and services.

- **Specialist Counselling for Children** – The Foundation provides a range of specialist counselling services for children and young people to aid their recovery from the impact of abuse, neglect and family violence.
- **Therapeutic care** – The Foundation provides specialist training to foster carers, residential unit staff and other carers about how to better support and look after traumatised children.
- **Research** – In partnership with Australian and International Universities, the Foundation is undertaking research to identify constructive solutions for the problem of child abuse.
- **Inspiring and supporting parents** – The Foundation offers national parent education seminars, programs and accessible resources to strengthen the ability of parents to raise happy and confident children.
- **Professional and Community Education** – Using principles drawn from the neuroscience of trauma, the Foundation provides training to more than 8000 professionals and community groups each year across Australia.
- **Child abuse prevention programs** – The Foundation runs nationally recognised child abuse prevention programs that seek to decrease the incidence of child abuse and raise awareness about how to stop it even before it starts.
- **Advocacy** – The Foundation speaks out for effective protective and support services for children and young people, including lobbying governments to reform legislation and social policy to better protect children.



About the film. *In the Heart of the Sea* stars Chris Hemsworth, Benjamin Walker, Cillian Murphy and Ben Whishaw, along with Tom Holland and Brendan Gleeson. The film is directed by Ron Howard from a screenplay by Charles Leavitt, story by Charles Leavitt and Rick Jaffa & Amanda Silver, based on the book *In the Heart of the Sea: The Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex* by Nathaniel Philbrick. Joe Roth, Paula Weinstein, Will Ward, Brian Grazer and Ron Howard are the producers, with Bruce Berman, Sarah Bradshaw, Palak Patel, Erica Huggins and David Bergstein serving as executive producers and William M. Connor as co-producer.

Warner Bros. Pictures presents, in association with Village Roadshow Pictures, a COTT Productions-Enelmar Productions, A.I.E. co-production, a Roth Films/Spring Creek/Imagine Entertainment Production, in Association with Kia Jam, a Ron Howard Film, *In the Heart of the Sea*. The film will be distributed in 3D and 2D in select theatres and IMAX, by Warner Bros. Pictures, a Warner Bros. Entertainment Company, and in select territories by Village Roadshow Pictures. www.intheheartoftheseamovie.net