
Media Release

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Horizon Houses gear up for the Great Bike Ride

Young people staying at Horizon House have been given an excellent opportunity to get on their bikes and take part in the flagship cycling event that helps provide them a home.

St John of God Health Care runs Horizon House – providing stable, long-term accommodation to people aged 16 to 22 who would otherwise be homeless – as one of its Social Outreach and Advocacy services.

Horizon House is one of the organisations set to benefit from next month's Santos Great Bike Ride – Perth's premier cycling event. And now residents of Horizon House can get fully involved with the Great Bike Ride having just taken delivery of eight race bikes, cycle helmets, a six-week training programme, and cycle computers to help complete the event thanks to Body Active Consultancy and Bike Corp, who have donated the equipment.

Each of Western Australia's four Horizon Houses (in Wilson, Wanneroo, Bunbury and Geraldton) has received two bikes each and now the training starts in earnest.

Hon Mike Board, St John of God Health Care's Manager of Youth, said: "The Great Bike Ride has been a very important event for Horizon House since 2004 and brings in significant funds to run the services for young people who are in need.

"We are really grateful to Body Active Consultancy and Bike Corp for the generous donation of these eight bikes and all the equipment that goes with them. It means that the young people in Horizon House can take full part in the event on November 21 and hopefully have a lot of fun along the way as well."

Mark Armstrong, of Body Active Consultancy, said: "BAC is delighted to donate these eight race bikes to the Horizon Houses. The support from Bike Corp to donate bike computers will also allow the riders to measure the km's ridden and their speed. BAC has also created a six-week training program, with advice to allow them to finish the event – hopefully in a good time!"

The Great Bike Ride starts and finishes at Perth's Langley Park and there are 53km and 106km rides, as well as a 10km family ride. You can support this event and Horizon House by taking part in the ride, sponsoring a friend or by volunteering at the Great Bike Ride – full information is available at www.greatbikeride.com.au

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NOTES

St John of God Health Care is a leading provider of private hospitals, pathology, and Social Outreach and Advocacy services, throughout Australia, New Zealand and the Asia-Pacific region.

We return all profits to the communities we serve by:

- Updating and expanding technology and facilities
- Expanding existing services and acquiring new services
- Providing Social Outreach and Advocacy services to people experiencing disadvantage

Social Outreach and Advocacy services provide significant care and relief for people experiencing disadvantage throughout Australia, New Zealand and the Asia Pacific region, particularly in areas where we have identified gaps in current service provisions.

Horizon House is one of St John of God Health Care's key Social Outreach and Advocacy services which focuses on providing long-term housing, care and intensive support to young people aged between 16-22 years, who would otherwise be homeless. The service provides a model of care and support in a family environment, working towards St John of God Health Care's vision for all young people to have the opportunity to live in a caring family environment that fosters respect and responsibility and enables them to grow and develop trusting relationships so they become contributing members of the community.

Horizon House aims to meet the long term needs of disadvantaged and homeless young people, providing life skills, education, counselling and socialisation in order for young people to break the cycle of homelessness ultimately reducing dependence on the welfare system.

More information on the Horizon House service is available at http://www.sjog.org.au/other_services/horizon_houses.aspx