

CARNIVAL BRINGS MUSIC THERAPY TO THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AT WESTMEAD

Carnival Cruise Line's 'Wiggle for Westmead' program provides funding for music therapy and virtual reality to patients and families at The Children's Hospital at Westmead

Sydney, 30 August 2019 – Thanks to the generosity of Carnival Cruise Line's guests through the Wiggle for Westmead program, Carnival has donated funds towards a number of vital services at The Children's Hospital at Westmead, including both Music Therapy and the Anaesthetics Virtual Reality Project.



Pictured left to right: Sam - Playlist Cast Manager, Reece - Playlist Singer, Jennifer Vandekreeke - VP and General Manager Carnival Cruise Line Australia, Rob - Music Manager (doing his best Blue Steel), Eli Sharplin - Cruise Director and (Cheeky) Charlie - Fun Squad Host

To mark the donation, Carnival Cruise Line Australia Vice President, Jennifer Vandekreeke, and Carnival Playlist Production performers, joined Medical Director of the Grace Centre for Newborn Intensive Care, Professor Nadia Badawi AM in a special performance for patients.

Carnival's Wiggle for Westmead program enables guests to participate in a dance on board to raise funds and awareness for The Children's Hospital at Westmead. Continuing into its third year, over 10,000 Carnival guests have participated in Wiggle for Westmead, raising over \$227,800 which has been allocated to a range of hospital projects since the partnership began.

The latest funding donated by Carnival will contribute towards 12 months of Music Therapy for the Grace Centre for Newborn Intensive Care and the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit. The benefits of this therapy have been proven to comfort and relax infants with complex medical conditions who are in physiological and psychological distress.

"The support we have received from Carnival over the past three years has been instrumental in improving the quality of the care we provide to the babies and their families in the Grace Centre for Newborn Intensive Care, and this latest donation will allow us to help even more," said Professor Nadia Badawi.

"Not only can Music Therapy calm patients in a stressful environment, it can also help families connect with their children through voice when it is sometimes difficult to even touch them."



Carnival will also aid the Anaesthetics Virtual Reality Project, allowing young patients to explore the operating suite before their operation. This is an exciting new way to remove a little of the uncertainty of having an operation and make the whole trip seem that little bit easier.

“The Children’s Hospital at Westmead is very near and dear to our hearts. We are thrilled that we are able to support the hard working doctors and nurses as they care for their courageous young patients. Our guests have truly embraced the Wiggle for Westmead which is a testament to their support for The Children’s Hospital at Westmead,” said Jennifer Vandekreeke.

To learn more about the partnership, please see the link below:

<https://www.carnival.com.au/promotional/wiggle-for-westmead.aspx>

-ENDS-

About Carnival Cruise Line

Carnival Cruise Line is the largest cruise line in the world, over five and a half million guests choose the fun of a Carnival cruise every year. Carnival Splendor joins the Australian fleet in December 2019. Sailing from Sydney, she will become the newest and largest ship home ported year-round in Australia. Currently home ported in Sydney, Carnival Spirit will reposition to her new home of Brisbane in October 2020, sailing year-round from the Sunshine State. Designed with fun in mind and featuring over 45 activities to enjoy each day, Carnival offers families and couples fun, memorable holidays at a great value.

To learn more about Carnival Cruise Line, visit Carnival.com.au.

For reservations, contact any travel agent or call 13 31 94. Carnival can also be found on:

Facebook: [@CarnivalOz](https://www.facebook.com/CarnivalOz)

Instagram: [@Carnivalcruiselineau](https://www.instagram.com/Carnivalcruiselineau)

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/CarnivalOz>

About The Children’s Hospital at Westmead

As part of The Sydney Children’s Hospitals Network, The Children’s Hospital at Westmead provides specialist care for children from around Australia and across the Pacific Rim, as well as community education, advocacy for improved child health and ground-breaking research into childhood illnesses, all in a positive, caring and healing environment. Founded in 1880, The Children’s Hospital at Westmead is a public hospital, with more than 3,500 staff across 150 departments looking after more than 80,000 sick children and their families each year. This includes around 33,000 inpatient admissions, 59,000 emergency department presentations and more than 859,000 outpatient visits. Fundraising for the Hospital is managed by Sydney Children’s Hospitals Foundation www.schf.org.au

Media Contacts:

Jesse Muir

0422 905 244

Jesse.muir@fleishman.com.au