



National Cancer Charities Propose Merger

Camp Quality and CanTeen propose to join forces to provide better services and programs for young people living with cancer

Australia, 28 April 2009 – The Boards of Camp Quality and CanTeen are announcing their decision to propose a merger. The two charities propose to create a single national organisation throughout Australia, supporting young people (0-24 years) living with cancer and their families. After a period of consultation the decision to merge will be put to a planned vote of Members by the end of 2009.

For more than two decades, Camp Quality, the children's cancer charity that brings optimism and happiness to the lives of children and families affected by cancer through fun therapy, and CanTeen, the Australian organisation for young people living with cancer, have worked side by side in the delivery of services and support to children, adolescents, young adults and families living with cancer.

Camp Quality CEO Simon Rountree says, "We strongly believe that by working together we can deliver even greater outcomes for young people living with cancer and their families than we can separately."

Andrew Young, CEO of CanTeen, says, "Both organisations are committed to providing the best programs as efficiently as possible. This proposed merger will mean we can do even more with the support we receive from donors in the community and from our corporate partners."

It is proposed that the new organisation will: provide seamless access to all programs and services for young people living with cancer and their families; be the national advocate for the interests of young people living with cancer; and be the expert in understanding and responding to the needs of young people living with cancer.

Both organisations have a culture of empowering young people, families, staff and volunteers. There will be an extensive period of consultation before the final proposal is put to vote towards the end of 2009.

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"This proposed merger is not driven by the current economic climate," says Andrew Young, CEO of CanTeen, "Combining the two organisations will capitalise on the strengths of each and create a greater range of opportunities for staff and volunteers."

Simon Rountree, CEO of Camp Quality emphasises that the new organisation will continue all programs and services into the future. He says, "Both organisations are excited by the prospect of growing the reach and impact of programs and services we provide to young people and their families living with cancer."

CanTeen and Camp Quality are non government organisations that depend 100% on community and corporate support.

Media Links:

- CanTeen and Camp Quality images - <http://picasaweb.google.com/CanTeenNational/CanTeenAndCampQualityImages?authkey=Gv1sRgCOHskMqBiLvVZQ#>
- CanTeen – CEO and National President Videos – www.canteen.org.au
- Camp Quality CEO Video – www.campquality.org.au

- Ends -

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About Camp Quality

Camp Quality is the children's family cancer charity that believes in bringing optimism and happiness to the lives of children and families affected by cancer through fun therapy. Camp Quality's four key programs – Educational, Hospital, Family Support, and Recreational, focus on providing positive experiences and resources to help children and their families face the bad days and celebrate the good ones. Camp Quality believes 'laughter is the best medicine.' www.campquality.org.au

About CanTeen – The Australian Organisation for Young People Living with Cancer

CanTeen is the Australian Organisation for Young People Living with Cancer. CanTeen's Members are young people (12-24 year-olds) living with cancer, including cancer patients, brothers or sisters of cancer patients and young people with a parent or primary care giver with cancer. CanTeen provides Members with a place where they can simply be young people - away from the adult dominated environment of cancer hospitals and treatment regimes. Through its camps and programs, CanTeen encourages its Members to get involved, make friends and have fun! In the words of our Members, the most effective form of support is from other young people in a similar situation - who have "been there, done that". www.canteen.org.au