



MEDIA RELEASE

Charity Gala raises record amount for Children's Hospital Westmead

16 May 2007. More than 500 guests gathered at Garden Island on Friday night for the glamorous *Cure Our Kids* black-tie charity event *Bal De La Mer* that raised a record \$320,000 for the Oncology Unit at the Children's Hospital Westmead.

Cure Our Kids CEO and event organiser Carolyn Dodds is thrilled with the result.

"I'm just so overwhelmed by the generosity of our guests, we asked them to dig deep, and they did exactly that, I can't thank everyone enough for their kind donations, and to our sponsors, our staff, our volunteers, it all came together on the night, it was a huge success," said Carolyn.

Also launched on the night, was the *Dream Fund*, an initiative by Cure Our Kids to help seriously ill children realise their dreams. Monies raised will go towards creating memorable experiences and turning aspiration into actuality for those children suffering from cancer and cancer related illnesses.

Moved by the plight of one patient in particular, young Shauntelle Berryman who has been diagnosed with an incurable brain tumour, guests at the Ball generously pledged more than \$100,000 alone to kick-start the Dream Fund.

Shauntelle's dream came true when her singing idol, *Australian Idol* vocal coach Erana Clarke performed a song at the Ball that had been written by Shauntelle and her father Joe when they learnt of the severity of Shauntelle's illness, in an effort to help them come to terms with the situation they found themselves in.

High profile guests at the ball included David Wenham, Bert Newton, Justin Melvey, Peta Wilson & Aaron Jeffery, Kathryn Eisman, Jane Flemming, Kathleen DeLeon & Daniel Jones, John & Frances Ingham, Bessie Bardot, Ryan Girdler, Erana Clarke, John Mangos, Cameron Williams, Tom Waterhouse.

For further information visit www.cureourkids.com.au

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