



**For immediate release
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Central Coast Kids in Need better off with Wallarah 2 funding

Central Coast Kids in Need provides accommodation support to financially burdened parents with seriously ill children and will continue bringing families closer, partly thanks to a recent grant from the Wallarah 2 Community Foundation.

The volunteer fundraising group formed in 1993 helps families who have seriously ill children with their accommodation bills, as Central Coast families do not qualify for any government assistance due to their proximity to Sydney and Newcastle.

"Many people are unaware that there is a \$43 to \$60 per night fee to stay in Ronald McDonald Houses," said Rhonda Doyle, Treasurer of Central Coast Kids in Need.

"This means that families with children undergoing prolonged treatments are faced with bills for thousands of dollars, just so they can be close to their seriously ill child," she added.

To aid the group, which consists of just 15 volunteer members, the Wallarah 2 Community Foundation has granted \$4,300 – enough to accommodate families for 100 nights in critical stay accommodation this year.

"This grant is a great help in achieving our goal of keeping our local families together during times of crisis and we thank the Wallarah 2 Community Foundation for its generous support," said Rhonda.

Kenny Barry, Project Manager of Wallarah 2 Coal Project said, "Central Coast Kids in Need provides vital support to young Central Coast families enduring great hardship and Wallarah 2 is proud to contribute to this important initiative."

"We hope that this grant can contribute to bringing Central Coast families with seriously ill children closer together without the added stress of financial strain," he added.

In the 2013/2014 financial year alone, Central Coast Kids in Need was able to pay accounts for 238 families, totalling over \$270,000. They hope to continue these remarkable efforts through the continued support of local businesses such as Wallarah 2 and the Central Coast community.

"We are currently appealing for donations and every dollar counts," said Rhonda.

"If you want to support Central Coast Kids in Need or you're interested in finding out more about what we do, you can visit our website at www.cckin.com.au," she added.

The Wallarah 2 Community Foundation grant application process is now closed, with 14 grants presented to support organisations that benefit the Wyong local government area. For further information, please visit www.wallarrah.com.au.

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