



## MEDIA RELEASE

- For immediate release -

### Urgent Shortage of 200 Christmas Presents for Marymead Children

Marymead Child and Family Centre, Canberra's own children's charity, is currently experiencing a severe shortage of Christmas presents to distribute to vulnerable and disadvantaged children in their care.

Although Marymead has many very generous supporters, made up of individuals and organisations, changing charity selection and the growing number of children in need means this year's Christmas tree is looking quite sparse. Marymead cares for and supports over 800 Canberra children and families each year and for many, the Christmas gifts given by the community via Marymead are the only ones they receive.

"When Canberra citizens give a gift to Marymead, it is given directly to vulnerable children. These children may be living at our campus due to very difficult circumstances, in foster care or within a struggling family that we are supporting," says Marymead CEO Dawson Ruhl.

"I would like to sincerely thank both the individuals and organisations who are supporting our ongoing work with children. I would also like to invite others to help meet this current need. "

Marymead reaches 40 years of service to the Canberra community next year. The community-based organisation runs a range of programs which support families and care for children who cannot live at home. As part of the Canberra family since 1967, Marymead continues to grow to meet needs and break the cycle of childhood abuse and neglect.

*At least 200 presents are needed to fill the current shortage.* Gifts are appreciated for all ages, from babies to 18 years, for both males and females. Presents can be delivered *unwrapped* to Marymead's campus at 255 Goyder St Narrabundah or contact Marymead to arrange pickup. All gifts large and small are welcome. Some gift suggestions are *toys, sport and play equipment, CD's, girl's jewellery, hair accessories, and moisturisers, art supplies, bikes, board games, toy cars, vouchers and tickets...* or use your imagination! Monetary donations (tax deductible) are also greatly appreciated.

Visit [www.marymead.org.au](http://www.marymead.org.au) or call 6162 5800 for more information on how you can give a Canberra child a brighter Christmas and future.

**For further information please contact Kate Jennings - Media Manager**

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