

PETER DRAPER

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

MEDIA RELEASE

Tamworth's Children's Respite Service deserves a Helping Hand

July 7 2004

Member for Tamworth Peter Draper is urging the community to throw its support behind the McHappy Time fundraising campaign he helped launch in Tamworth today.

Mr Draper said every dollar raised through the sale of a Helping Hand would go towards the costs of a purpose-built home which Challenge Disability Services will use to accommodate children with physical and intellectual disabilities.

"Respite services, such as those Challenge provides, gives the parents and carers of these children a well-earned break through its Children's Respite Service, unfortunately, the Service does not have a specific venue to accommodate children," Mr Draper said.

"With 100 child clients Challenge Disability Services can currently only provide a respite service for them at its Patterson House one weekend every three months which falls well short of demand," he said.

The difficulty with Patterson House is that it can only accommodate three children for a weekend. Bedrooms are at present only partitioned with curtains due to it being a temporary stop-gap for respite which is not at all satisfactory for the clients or staff.

Challenge is currently fundraising toward a \$300,000 purpose-built children's respite facility (house) which will be constructed on a block the Service owns on the corner of Patterson and Hunt streets.

"I applaud McDonalds Tamworth on its choice of Children's Respite Services as the recipient of proceeds from this two-week McHappy Time campaign and I look forward to seeing the results," he said.

A digital photo of the launch is available by email on request

End Release

www.peterdraper.com.au

Media Contacts: Peter Draper 0417 290 376
Donna Hurley 0419 409 538

Electorate Office ph. 6766 1422
Parliament House ph. 9230 2341