



EMBARGO TUESDAY 26TH JULY 2016, 12:45PM

Photo and interview opportunity

Mayor Mark Jamieson, SunnyKids CEO Chris Turner,
SunnyKids President Karen Neuendorf

Council Chambers, Cnr Currie & Bury Streets Nambour

MEDIA CALL

SunnyKids announces Mayor Mark Jamieson as new Patron

SunnyKids is thrilled to announce the formal appointment of Sunshine Coast Mayor, Mark Jamieson as their new Patron.

From July 1st Mayor Jamieson will replace one of the Sunshine Coast's favorite daughters and SunnyKids current Patron, Jessica Watson who has generously served SunnyKids for five years.

CEO Chris Turner says "SunnyKids is working closer with council and in particular now having the Mayor as Patron will further assist the development of SunnyKids including their capacity to support the implementation of council's Sunshine Coast Social Strategy 2015."

"If we can effect change in the lives of the 1,000 children currently identified as vulnerable simply because they lack the necessary protective factors to keep them safe and nurtured, then not only will we prevent them from ever having to enter into homelessness, violence or crime but we will improve their health, wellbeing and employment trajectories making the return on SunnyKids work for the Sunshine Coast exponential," he said.

Mayor Jamieson has been a proud supporter of SunnyKids over a number of years and the 2015 Award to Mr Turner as Citizen of the Year further solidified this relationship with council. In November 2015 Mayor Jamieson launched SunnyKids 'It Takes A Village' Local Child Sponsorship Program, with the Mayor signing on as one of the program's first child sponsors.

"We want to ensure every child on the Coast is heard and no-one is forgotten – it's important all children in our community have the opportunity to reach their full potential," Mayor Jamieson said.

"SunnyKids is providing a great opportunity for our local community to help kids in their own backyard – in their own "village" – and I'm proud to be a child sponsor and newly appointed Patron of this important local charity.

"In Australia we spend \$2.8 billion per year* on out-of-home care for children, which demonstrates that there is a high number of children who need our support.

"Each region needs to take a proactive stance in helping to improve this situation and with help from the Sunshine Coast community we can make a difference."

Each year SunnyKids supports up to 300 vulnerable children in our community. Mayor Jamieson will also announce details of a special event that he will be hosting for SunnyKids.

*(AIFS, July 2015)

For additional information, please visit these websites:

SunnyKids www.sunnykids.org.au
YouTube <https://youtu.be/nLpmixtpI3s>

CONTACT

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