

Media Release: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2009

**Join Craig Foster and run for Barnardos**

He's more at home on the football pitch or in the television studio but on Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> September 2009 former Socceroo, Craig Foster, will be running with the Barnardos Australia team and raising funds for Australia's severely disadvantaged children in the Blackmores Sydney Running Festival.

Newly appointed as a Barnardos ambassador Craig, now a leading sports presenter, will be meeting some of the kids the money he raises will help at the Barnardos Auburn Centre, 18-24 Kerr Parade, Auburn at 10am on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July.

"As a father I can't imagine anything more devastating than the plight of these abused and neglected kids," says Craig. "An opportunity to do something to help is something close to my heart. I wanted to show that like Barnardos, I believe in kids."

"To be your best in 2009 I ask each one of you to get behind me and 'Run For Barnardos' in the Blackmores Sydney Running Festival to raise crucial funds to enable Barnardos to continue delivering vital services to our community's most vulnerable children," he added.

This is the first year that Barnardos has been chosen as one of the official supporter charities in the Blackmores Sydney Running Festival – the run that's fun for everyone. With four great events to choose from people of all ages and abilities the once a year opportunity to run, jog or walk over the famous Sydney Harbour Bridge and finish at the equally iconic Sydney Opera House.

Barnardos, who have recently launched a new campaign highlighting the effects of childhood neglect on the health and wellbeing of young people, are hoping that with Craig's support the event will raise much needed funds to help even the most damaged children to turn their lives around.

"We are delighted that Craig will be joining us on Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> September to run over the bridge and show Sydney that like us he believes in children," said Bill Petch, Barnardos' marketing manager. "There are over 15,000 substantiated cases of childhood neglect in Australia every year. Each of these children is at risk of long-term development, health and emotional problems if they don't receive the help they need. At Barnardos we believe in the capacity of each and every child no matter their circumstances, and we offer support for as long as it is needed – we never give up."

Choose to enter either The Sunday Telegraph Family Fun Run (4km), The Sunday Telegraph body+soul Bridge Run (9km), the Blackmores Half Marathon or the Blackmores Marathon. With this choice the entire community can enjoy this spectacular event, from the casual walker or jogger to the serious marathon runner.

"The event is also one of the biggest fundraising activities in the country with over \$1.3m raised for charities in 2008," said Wayne Larden, Blackmores Sydney Running Festival event director. "So why not get out there, enjoy some fun and fitness and help contribute to our fundraising target of \$2m this year!"

**Register to run in the Blackmores Sydney Running Festival now at [www.sydneyrunningfestival.com.au](http://www.sydneyrunningfestival.com.au) and select Barnardos Australia as your chosen charity.**

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**For more information contact Emma Lipscombe 020 9241 2391 or [events@barnardos.org.au](mailto:events@barnardos.org.au).**

**Notes for editors:**

Barnardos Australia is a non-government, non-denominational child welfare charity that has been helping children in need for over 120 years.

Barnardos is one of the largest children's charities in Australia, caring for children at risk of abuse and neglect. The work of Barnardos Australia focuses on the prevention of abuse, neglect and entry into care. Children of all backgrounds and cultural heritage are helped through a range of welfare programs including crisis care, family support, counselling and permanent foster care.

*Our vision is that all children and young people will have caring families, in which they can grow up safely and reach their full potential supported by quality services and engaged communities.*

For more information visit: [www.barnardos.org.au](http://www.barnardos.org.au).