

## Media Release

16 June 2015



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# Camp for people living with a disability wins \$30k NAB grant

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Last night, Muscular Dystrophy Australia (MDA) was awarded a \$30,000 grant from the National Australia Bank to fund the 100th *CampMDA* which sees children and adults living with Muscular Dystrophy attend a weeklong respite camp.

"It is a privilege receiving this honour and having the work of *CampMDA* recognised by such a prestigious organisation and we thank all of the NAB employees who voted for this wonderful cause," said Muscular Dystrophy Australia's Executive Director, Boris M Struk.

Muscular Dystrophies (MD) help make up over 60 neuromuscular disorders which currently affect 1 in 625 people and is a progressive muscle-destroying disorder with catastrophic consequences, such as loss of mobility and compromised respiratory & cardiac function. This results in the reliance of a wheelchair for mobility, a ventilator to sustain breathing and around the clock carer support.

The grant was made available through the NAB's *Community Engagement Program* and MDA was selected through the *Employees Choice Awards* where staff voted on the winning charity via an internal intranet system.

Mr Struk attended the award ceremony held in the Melbourne CBD along with the MDA Client Services Manager, Maria Kouppas, and was given the opportunity to network with the wide variety of recipients of the various grants.

"*CampMDA* is a cornerstone service that MDA provides to those in the MD community and is one of the most important activities which MDA facilitates as it provides over 14,000 hours of respite per annum to families of those affected.

"It is about providing a fun place where children, and adults, with MD can come and relax and have a wonderful time socialising and participating in exciting activities.

"At the same time it also allows a break for the primary carers as it gives them some time to recharge their batteries and unwind while they know their loved one is being taken care of at *CampMDA*.

"Celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> camp is a huge achievement and we are so proud to be able to offer such an important service to the community and now, thanks to the grant, we can make it a spectacular event.

"It is so important to provide our members with a fun week that can take their mind off such a serious condition. To see all of their smiling faces and hearing the cackle of laughs all day long really makes it all worthwhile," said Mr Struk.

Media are invited to the 100<sup>th</sup> *CampMDA* Open Day celebrations being held in Bacchus Marsh on Sunday 27 September 2015, to register for the event call MDA on (03) 9320 9555.

**To find out more about *CampMDA* or to arrange an interview with Muscular Dystrophy Australia Executive Director, Boris M Struk, please contact:**

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