

Media Release

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Multicultural community gathers to support Muscular Dystrophy

This weekend at the *Masters Home Improvement* store in Roxburgh Park, Victoria, thousands of people will gather for a multicultural festival celebrating the community and raising awareness for Muscular Dystrophy.

“We are so grateful for the *Multicultural Family Festival* choosing Muscular Dystrophy Australia as their charity of choice for the proceeds of several raffles this weekend,” said Muscular Dystrophy Australia’s Executive Director, Boris M Struk.

Khodr Elmarhbe and Kareem Kiryakos from the *Multicultural Family Festival* have been involved in community events in one or another for over 25 years. This year they decided to give back to the community and put on a festival to give back to the community and to make it as affordable as possible.

The event is a not-for-profit festival which aims to educate community members about the various cultures represented within the community, it has been created with the aim to build social connectedness among the community members through, dance, art, food and activities.

“Representatives from MDA will be present at the event this weekend to answer any questions members of the community have about Muscular Dystrophy,” said Mr Struk.

The area of Hume is one of Australia’s fastest growing and most culturally diverse communities. With over 180,000 residents, Hume is home to people from more than 166 countries speaking 120 languages.

“MD is a condition which affects one in 1,000 people and anyone can be born with the disorder as it is both hereditary and can also be a spontaneous genetic mutation,” said Mr Struk.

“Members of our MD community are from almost every ethnicity you can think of and that is why this joint partnership with the *Multicultural Family Festival* is so important and relevant,” said Mr Struk.

Since its inception, MDA has provided more than half a million hours of respite for those in the community affected by MD, as well as over 110,000 hours of the support program Futures and more than 150,000 hours of student placement representing more than 4,500 tertiary education students supporting CampMDA.

“We hope to see everyone there to enjoy the rides and festivities. The closing ceremony will see many distinguished guests present, as well as myself, with an exciting display of fireworks to cap off the evening,” said Mr Struk.

The event is being held from 11am-9pm this Saturday and Sunday 18-19 October 2014 at Masters Roxburgh Park at 1550 Pascoe Vale Road Coolaroo VIC 3048.

To arrange an interview or photo opportunity with Muscular Dystrophy Australia Executive Director, Boris M Struk, please contact:

Media representative: MDA Public Relations and Communications Manager, Courtney Burger

Mobile: 0439 784 890

Phone: (03) 9320 9555

Email: Courtney.Burger@mda.org.au