

MEDIA RELEASE REQUEST

For Immediate Release – 5th May 2011



Many hands make Liberty Swing a reality for Macgregor Students

A Variety Liberty Swing is the latest addition to the Macgregor State School playground and is the jewel in the crown of their Mayfest Celebrations. The Liberty Swing and playground will be officially opened with a swag of local celebrities and dignitaries on Saturday 7th May at 11:00am.

The Honorable Judy Spence MP, Member for Moreton Graham Perrett, Councillor for Macgregor Steven Huang and Lord Mayor Graham Quirk will be accompanied by MC Ian Skippen as the playground and Liberty Swing are officially opened to the squeals of delight from the Macgregor State School Students.

Swinging through the air is a sensation most of us have taken for granted throughout our childhood. Thanks to many generous local sponsors, children with physical impairments or in wheelchairs will now be given the opportunity to create these same happy playground memories with their peers and friends. Smiles and raucous laughter are often guaranteed by children using a Variety Liberty Swing as they play and laugh with their friends, family and peers.

"Macgregor Special Education Unit has an enrolment of 50 students from Prep to year 7. Approximately 30 of the students have significant physical impairments and many of these children have complex disabilities requiring use of wheelchairs. The thrill and excitement these students will experience by having the liberty swing will be immeasurable. The children have been enthusiastically waiting for the day when they would have their own swing in the playground alongside their able bodied peers". Said Head of the Special Education Unit at Macgregor Primary School, Helen Leben

"We can't go to the park to have a swing cause they don't have facilities for children with disabilities so it will be great to have our own swing at school" Macgregor Primary student Lochie, Year 6.

Funding for the Liberty Swing was supported by a host of local businesses and generous sponsors. To celebrate and add to the occasion, many local supporters will attend Mayfest to really absorb how their support will positively affect children's lives and more importantly, their community.

"The addition of the Liberty Swing to the playground at Macgregor State School will ensure all children can enjoy our playground facilities, regardless of their abilities or disabilities. I would like to thank everyone involved in the project but in particular special thanks must go to Variety the children's charity for supporting local needs and communities" said Helen.

Variety Queensland CEO Les Riley said that the Liberty Swing works much the same way as an ordinary swing, but has been designed and engineered to accommodate a wheelchair. "The Liberty Swing is a great Australian invention that allows kids in wheelchairs or with physical impairments to enjoy the freedom which able bodied children have always had access", Mr. Riley said.

Variety, the children's charity

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Mr. Riley continued "All children should have the right to the same privileges and having fun on a swing in the playground is no exception".

A ramp attaches to the swing so the wheelchair can be rolled on to it. The swing also features a set of instructions and diagrams showing how to use the swing safely. The Liberty Swing includes a collapsible chair with a retractable harness type seatbelt for those who are not necessarily wheelchair-dependent but who are unable to use a conventional swing.

Mayfest - Macgregor State School

Where: McCullough Street, Sunnybank

When: Saturday 7th May, 11:00am

MC: Ian Skippen, Triple M

Date: Saturday May 7 2011

Start time: 11:30am

Photo Opportunities available

Media Contacts

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