



20 January 2010

Balwyn home to help kids in crisis

The national charity, BoysTown, has chosen a luxury Balwyn property as its latest prize home. From today, the home will be open for viewing and ticket sales, to raise desperately needed funds to help give Victorian children, young people and families a fresh start, according to BoysTown's General Manager Fundraising, Mr Keith Coventry.

"We want to raise as much funds as possible to help people in need. We believe this home's location, in the very desirable suburb of Balwyn, as well as its top design and finish, will encourage people from across Australia to have a go and buy a ticket."

Keith said the fully-furnished home, part of a \$1.4 million prize package, comprised four bedrooms, three bathrooms and three living areas. Bi-fold doors separate the formal living area and the open plan living and dining areas.

"The stunning kitchen would please the most fastidious cook, with its luxury finishes and quality Smeg appliances. The home also features northerly decks which overlook landscaped gardens and a paved alfresco courtyard.

Located opposite the picturesque Minifie Reserve, the home is 500 metres from the East Balwyn shops and within the Balwyn High School precinct. There is also easy access to regional shopping at Doncaster and Camberwell, and the Eastern freeway.

Keith said BoysTown's charitable services included: domestic violence and homeless refuges; employment and training services for disadvantaged young people; and Kids Helpline, Australia's only 24 hour crisis counselling services for children and young people. According to Keith, BoysTown's Kids Helpline has been busy over the Christmas holiday period, similar to previous years.

"During the Christmas holiday period prior to this, calls for help from Victorian kids and young people increased by four per cent compared with the non-Christmas period. Contacts made from Melbourne also rose by four per cent," Keith said.

During the period, Kids Helpline received close to 11,000 calls for help from Victorian kids and young people and more than 67,000 nationally.

BoysTown's General Manager Counselling Services Ms Wendy Protheroe said the Christmas holiday period is often portrayed as a blissful time of family togetherness and harmony, but this is not always reality.

"If a child or young person has experienced a traumatic experience, such as a family separation, divorce or neglect, Christmas often doesn't measure up, which can lead to feelings of sadness, frustration and sometimes anger," she said

Open for ticket sales and viewing from 20 January 2010 to 3 March 2010, the home is located at **270 Belmore Road, Balwyn**. The \$1,459,740 prize package includes over \$71,730 in furniture and electrical and \$5,000 in gold bullion. Tickets are \$15 each, with a maximum of only 310,000 on offer. Tickets are also available via www.boystown.com.au...**ENDS**

For more information and/or photographs: Deirdra Leigh, BoysTown Lotteries, 0438 208 334 or 07 3844 1930.