



Ronald  
McDonald  
House®  
SOUTH EAST  
QUEENSLAND



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**13 February 2015**

### **Matthew Hayden and top chefs cook up a storm for Ronald McDonald House families**

Cricket legend Matthew Hayden AM will join with some of Brisbane's best chefs at Ronald McDonald House Herston on Friday 13 February to prepare a delicious lunch for seriously ill children and their families.

The day will provide an opportunity for the families to relax and enjoy a gourmet BBQ prepared by cooking enthusiast Hayden and culinary maestros from Treasury Casino & Hotel.

Hayden is a Patron of the new South Brisbane House campaign, while Treasury Casino & Hotel and Jupiters Hotel & Casino, supported by their parent company Echo Entertainment Group Limited, has pledged to contribute \$3 million over three years to support the development and operations of RMH SEQ's new South Brisbane House project at the Lady Cilento Hospital.

At the event, Treasury Casino & Hotel and Jupiters Hotel & Casino's first \$1 million cheque will be presented.

Hayden said he was passionate about helping to raise funds for a new 'home away from home' for seriously ill children and their families.

"Ronald McDonald House provides critical support to regional and rural families with seriously ill children undergoing lifesaving treatment in major metropolitan hospitals," Mr Hayden said.

"This largely volunteer-driven organisation gives accommodation, support and above all, peace of mind, to thousands of families at a time when they need it most."

Echo Entertainment Group Managing Director, Queensland Geoff Hogg said the organisation plays a pivotal role in the lives of many rural and regional Queenslanders.

"Our team is committed and passionate about helping Ronald McDonald House turn their vision into a reality," Mr Hogg said.

"The new House will make a significant difference to Queensland families by enabling greater access to this vital service and we're incredibly proud our contribution will help support the families of seriously ill children – now, and in the future."

Ronald McDonald House South East Queensland's Business and Finance Manager, Steve Whitehead, said the support provided by Echo Entertainment and Matthew Hayden was invaluable.

“We are very appreciative of the continued support Echo Entertainment has provided not only for our new House but for the organisation as a whole.

“Echo’s wonderful contribution is a milestone for the House and has set the bar high for prospective donors looking to donate to the campaign.

“It’s a privilege to have their great chefs along with Matthew Hayden here to prepare a wonderful meal for our guests,” he said.

The new South Brisbane House is due to be completed in the first half of 2016 and will accommodate up to 450 guests per night, doubling the capacity of the existing facilities.

For more information about the project and ways you can donate visit the Power of Love website [www.poweroflove.org.au](http://www.poweroflove.org.au).

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**Ronald McDonald House South East Queensland**

Ronald McDonald House South East Queensland provides accommodation for the families of seriously ill children who live more than 50km from the treating hospital in Brisbane. Ronald McDonald Houses help to preserve the family unit in the midst of physical, emotional and financial stress. It also gives parents the chance to draw hope and comfort from other families in similar situations, while being supported by dedicated and friendly staff and volunteers.

Ronald McDonald House South East Queensland currently has two houses in Brisbane. One at Herston beside the Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital which has 50 rooms and one at South Brisbane near the Lady Cilento Children’s Hospital (LCCH) and Mater Mothers Hospitals which has 21 rooms. The organisation also has two Family Rooms located inside the Gold Coast University Hospital and two spaces in the LCCH.

**About Ronald McDonald House Charities:**

Ronald McDonald House Charities® (RMHC®) is an independent charity that that helps seriously ill children and their families. The cornerstone program of RMHC, the Ronald McDonald House® Program provides a ‘home away from home’ for families of seriously ill children being treated at nearby hospitals, and gives families the opportunity to stay together to support their sick children. RMHC was established in 1985. The Charity has since helped provide vital help to over 75,000 seriously ill children and their families. As many as 250 families will be sleeping at a Ronald McDonald House tonight and more than 6000 families each year. RMHC provides six major programs: Ronald McDonald House, Ronald McDonald Learning Program which helps children recovering from serious illness catch up on missed schooling, Ronald McDonald Family Retreat which provides families with seriously ill children a week’s free accommodation, enabling them to reconnect and enjoy a break when they most need it and can least afford it, Ronald McDonald Family Room which provides a relaxing haven within hospitals giving families a break from the stress of many hours spent by their child’s bedside, Cord Blood Banks and the Charlie Bell Scholarship program.