

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Celebrities Join QLD Charity To Support Children With Disabilities

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 2011

A host of Queensland celebrities have signed up to take part in an event to raise money for children with physical disabilities. The event, called Walk With Me, aims to raise \$40,000 this year and is being run by Corinda based charity MontroseAccess.

MontroseAccess is calling on individuals and groups to register for the second annual Walk With Me event to be held at Corinda on Sunday September 11. The walk is designed to bring young Queenslanders with physical disabilities together along with their families, local residents and the wider community to raise money for the charity's respite centre.

The walk follows a set course through the streets of Corinda, followed by an Open Day at the spacious MontroseAccess site on the Brisbane River.

MontroseAccess CEO, Darrel Bourke, said: "We have set a goal to raise \$40,000, which will assist us in supporting our families across Queensland, many of whom have no other means of regular support for their children. We are hoping for a big turnout of people to show their support for this event and for Australians living with disabilities. The walk will bring people of all abilities together while raising much-needed funds for our respite programs."

Walkers are invited to make a donation or sponsor other walkers through the event website at [www.walkwithme.org.au](http://www.walkwithme.org.au). Last year the event raised \$35,000 and attracted more than 300 walkers. It is designed to break down social barriers, promote exercise and nurture greater community spirit, but is also family-focused with great emphasis on having fun. The Open Day features jumping castles, live music, face painting, animal petting zoo and of course a barbeque lunch.

MontroseAccess is partnering with the national body Ability First Australia for the Brisbane based Walk With Me event on Sunday September 11, 2011, which will start at 9am at 54 Consort Street, Corinda; and be followed by a family-friendly party to celebrate the achievements of walkers, ambassadors and our guest celebrities. These include Firebirds netballer Clare McMeniman and the charismatic 'Agro' to name a few.

Darrel went on to say, "It costs MontroseAccess \$10,000 per year per client to maintain its services. From the NSW border to the tip of Queensland, we support more than 600 clients, which is more like 2,400 people as we care for entire family units. Sadly, this number is increasing every year and we need as much support from the community as we can get."

MontroseAccess was established in 1933 in Queensland to improve the quality of life of children living with physical disabilities. Now, with more than 600 clients across the entire state, it is a leading service provider in therapy, recreation and respite care. However, maintaining such services comes at great cost.

Community members can register to walk on the day or sponsor one of the 2011 ambassadors by visiting the event website at [www.walkwithme.org.au](http://www.walkwithme.org.au) and by clicking on the links.

For more information, to arrange an interview or high res images please feel free to contact MontroseAccess Communications Manager, Adam Harper on (07) 3717 1184 or 0414 871 360 or email [aharper@montroseaccess.org.au](mailto:aharper@montroseaccess.org.au)

Disability care for kids