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MATTY 'J' JOHNSON JOINS THE AUSTRALIAN CHILDHOOD FOUNDATION AS AMBASSADOR



Matty Johnson, who endeared himself to the nation on the hit TV show, *The Bachelor*, is pursuing love again in his new role as Ambassador for the Australian Childhood Foundation.

The Australian Childhood Foundation was started over 30 years ago by a small but passionate group of professionals and community advocates who found major gaps in the child protection system.

Today, the Foundation continues to work harder than ever to defend the rights of all children to a safe and loving childhood, free from the trauma of abuse and family violence.

Every day, the Foundation helps to transform the lives of children who have been severely traumatised. They also work closely with the community through their prevention programs to help stop the abuse before it happens.

Matty Johnson is lucky to have found love and a successful media career, but above all else he knows how lucky he is to have had an amazing relationship with his Mum and a childhood full of love. It is this strong bond, his close relationship with his sister and his beloved role as an Uncle that has inspired Matty to join with the Australian Childhood Foundation to champion the cause and be a defender of children who are not lucky enough to have the support network he grew up with.



Matty says 'The older I get the more I appreciate the impact my happy and healthy childhood has had on my life so far. Every child deserves that. Every child deserves to feel safe, loved and have adults in their lives they can trust. The Australian Childhood Foundation has been at the forefront of defending children in Australia for years and it is a privilege to do what I can to further their cause'

Dr Joe Tucci, CEO, Australian Childhood Foundation say 'Our central purpose is to bring love and safety to children affected by the trauma of child abuse and family violence. For this very reason, we believe that really valuing the kindness, sensitivity, trust and protection that good relationships provide children is a way to make it harder for violence to keep its hold on our families and communities. We welcome Matty to our dedicated team!'

Matty's first assignment as Ambassador for the Australian Childhood Foundation will be the ICAP Charity Day on 5 December in Sydney. On this one-day financial market operator ICAP donates its revenue and commissions globally to a number of charities. On behalf of the Foundation Matty will be taking to the dealing floor where he will help ICAP employees close some deals.

Matty joins the Australian Childhood Foundation's Patron Chris Hemsworth in shining a light on over 3000 children a week in Australia involved with child protection services to investigate child abuse, neglect and family violence and/or ensure their protection. In the past 6 years, this number has increased by 20% nationally.

The Issue and **The Australian Childhood Foundation's** Impact

Each year, the Foundation provides specialist intervention to 1200 – 1500 children and young people and/or their families or carers.

94% of children show a significant reduction in their trauma symptoms in their first 12 months at the Foundation.

92% of schools report that they are clearer about how to respond to traumatised children as a result of their involvement with the Foundation.

88% of foster carers report feeling less stressed and more confident in knowing how to support and look after the children in their care and 86% of children do not experience any placement breakdowns after their involvement with the Foundation.

64% of children successfully engage in a social group or sport for the first time as a result of the Foundation's intervention.

<http://www.childhood.org.au>

<https://www.facebook.com/australianchildhood/>

<https://twitter.com/AusChildhood>

<https://www.instagram.com/auschildhood/>

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