

MEDIA RELEASE
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A night to remember to save our Aussie Kids

Some of the hottest tickets in town are stepping up to the plate to celebrate and support an Australian charity which has already made a difference to 27,000 Australian kids.

Youth Insearch (www.youthinsearch.org), a unique, non-religious organisation, was founded 21 years ago to tackle some of the biggest problems confronting our Australian kids, including drug and alcohol addiction, emotional and physical abuse, bullying and low self esteem.

The charity will hold its first ever Gala Fundraising Dinner on September 22 under the BigTop at Sydney's Luna Park with Alan Jones generously providing his support as Master of Ceremonies.

Singing sensation Tom Burlinson will provide a touch of Ole Blue Eyes for the Dinner while Youth Insearch has also secured a major coup with the theatrical preview of the \$6million stage musical adaptation of *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* ahead of its world premiere at the Lyric Theatre, Star City on Saturday 7 October.

Youth Insearch was founded 21 years ago by a most remarkable Australian, Ron Barr, OAM, who has dedicated himself to caring for children who have been dealt an unfair hand in life. In those 21 years, Ron and his wife Judith have provided the opportunity for over 27,000 young Australians to empower their lives and this year, it will assist more than 1000 kids throughout Australia.

The unique Youth Insearch approach allows young people to actually address the real reason of why, they are either experimenting or abusing drugs and/or alcohol, why they are partaking in anti-social behaviour, turning to crime or just lack any motivation to obtain employment or continue with their education. Through Weekend Camps and follow up Support, young people establish new goals and directions in their lives.

Youth Insearch Chairman Mr Sean Howard said the initial response from corporate Australia to the Youth Insearch fundraising challenge had been positive.

“During my involvement with Youth Insearch, I have been touched by the amazing stories of personal triumph of young people who perhaps haven't had the best start in life. Ron Barr is a quiet achiever and it's taken some convincing to get Ron and Judith to agree to stage an event to celebrate 21 years of selfless service to the Australian community. We're very excited about, and grateful for, the support of Tom and the Priscilla cast and we're set for a night of spectacular entertainment, and an appropriate celebration of 21 years of making a difference.”

Tickets are available by calling Paul Simpson at Youth Insearch on **02 9659 6122**

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Paul Simpson, Youth Insearch (02) 9659 6122 or 0410 66 5961

LJ Loch, REPUBLIC Consulting 02 9380 4599 or 0439 633 429

Interviews with Ron Barr and Youth Insearch Leaders and participants are available