



## **NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 16, 2010

### **FROM BINGO HALL TO CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR KIDS WITH SENSORY IMPAIRMENTS IN THE NORTH**

On Tuesday, April 20 the Hon Jay Weatherill, Minister for Education and Minister for Early Childhood Development, will officially open CanDo4Kids new premises at Modbury North.

Gifted to CanDo4Kids in 2004 by two local cultural and sporting clubs, more than \$300,000 has since been invested in the property through the support of grants and a private donor, transforming it into a Centre of Excellence to support children and young adults who are Deaf/hearing impaired or Blind/vision impaired from the northern suburbs.

Tony Zappia, Member for Makin; Geoff Jenke, Bank SA Staff Charitable trust; Frances Bedford, Member for Florey and Miriam Smith, Mayor of Tea Tree Gully Council will be guests on the day.

CanDo4Kids Chief Executive Ms Judy Curran said the CanDo4Kids Modbury facility is a great addition and asset to the organisation.

“Currently around half of our clients are living in the northern suburbs, so having a service and resource centre that is more easily accessible helps us to better meet the needs of the South Australian community,” Ms Curran said.

“The Modbury facility will now become a base for half of our Client Services staff and enable us to hold specialised home and centre based services,” she said.

The CanDo4Kids Modbury facility has undergone a complete refurbishment and includes treatment and meeting rooms, a state-of-the-art sensory playground, kitchen facilities for independent living skills programs and an activity hall.

The playground includes an innovative new music program that plays songs and rhymes matched to speech and language programs, which assists the development of children with sensory impairments.

“The Modbury facility has been a major project for CanDo4Kids over the past six years and we acknowledge and sincerely thank all those involved in the project,” Ms Curran said.

“This new facility will have a positive impact on the lives of South Australian kids with a sensory impairment – especially those living in the northern suburbs,” she said.

The Modbury facility was gifted to CanDo4Kids by The Gully and District Cultural and Sporting Club and The Emu Cultural and Sporting Club with the refurbishment funded by the late Mr Ray Beaumont, Commonwealth and State Government Grants and the support of Tea Tree Gully Council and BankSA.

CanDo4Kids, established in 1874 as Townsend House, is South Australia’s oldest registered charity and is the principle provider of specialised disability support services for children and young adults who are Deaf/hearing impaired or Blind/vision impaired.

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**FURTHER INFORMATION:** Please contact Dalice Kennedy on 8100 8237 or 0409 820 183