

Media Release

SA Health

7 April 2016

Women's and Children's Hospital celebrates 15 years with Clown Doctors

For 15 years, a special kind of medicine has been delivered to sick and injured children at the Women's and Children's Hospital courtesy of performers known as Clown Doctors™, who spread fun and laughter to those who need it most.

The Clown Doctors are an initiative of The Humour Foundation, a national charity dedicated to promoting and delivering the health benefits of humour to the Australian community.

Clown Doctors visit the WCH each week, and through humour, music, magic, mime and puppetry, they distract children from painful procedures and help ease fear and anxiety.

They parody the hospital routine to help children adapt to hospital life and visit all wards, including burns, oncology, emergency and intensive care, as well as corridors, lifts and foyers.

A celebration of Clown Doctors and their contribution to the Women's and Children's Hospital will be held next week at the Women's and Children's Hospital, in recognition of the 15-year milestone.

Naomi Dwyer, Women's and Children's Health Network Chief Executive Officer, thanked the Clown Doctor performers and The Humour Foundation for their contribution to the children and families of the Women's and Children's Hospital over the past 15 years.

"Having a sick or injured child is distressing for families. The Clown Doctors cleverly and creatively distract children and families from their fear and anxiety, helping them to smile and laugh despite their discomfort," Ms Dwyer said.

"This supports the care we are able to provide to our children and families and we thank them for their contribution to improving children's health, and their service to the hospital, over the past 15 years."

The Humour Foundation Chief Executive Officer Melinda Farrell said the national charity was pleased to be delivering the health benefits of humour to the South Australian community through their Clown Doctors program.

"The Humour Foundation currently has over 58 professional Clown Doctors around Australia who make a difference to children, families and hospital staff, over 185,000 times every year," Ms Farrell said.

For more information

Call the WCHN Media Line

Telephone: 08 8161 7164 For urgent, after hours media ph 0401 125 630

 www.twitter.com/sahealthnews  www.youtube.com/sahealthaustralia



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The Humour Foundation is funded solely by the community through donations, sponsorship, grants and fundraising events.

Event details

Where: Women's and Children's Hospital, North Adelaide. ***Please meet at Kermode Street entrance***

When: Monday 11 April 2016

Time: 10am sharp

Visual opportunities include interviews and fun activities with Clown Doctors, children and families.

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