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MEDIA RELEASE

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Jupiters' 'Points for Hope' NRL fundraising initiative provides support for sick kids

Despite missing out on making the premiership finals, every point scored by the Gold Coast Titans during this year's NRL season resulted in a win for Ronald McDonald House South East Queensland (RMH SEQ) with \$439,000 being donated to the charity, courtesy of Jupiters Hotel & Casino on the Gold Coast.

For every point the Titans scored, Jupiters Hotel & Casino contributed \$1,000 towards the development of RMH SEQ's new South Brisbane House, which will be one of the largest Ronald McDonald Houses in the world when it is completed by mid-2016, and to support their Family Rooms at the Gold Coast University Hospital.

After 24 home and away matches this season, the Titans scored a total of 439 points, exceeding their 2014 tally by 67 points.

Echo Entertainment Group Managing Director, Queensland Geoff Hogg said the funds will enable more families to access RMH SEQ's vital services at their new South Brisbane House facility, including Gold Coast families requiring lifesaving medical treatment in Brisbane.

"It means important beneficiaries from this year's rugby league season are the sick kids and their families who will call this new facility home – for a night or, sometimes, for more than a year," Geoff said.

Gold Coast Titans Chief Executive Graham Annesley said the Points for Hope campaign had been an outstanding success.

"We are proud the Titans have been able to play a role in promoting such a worthwhile cause," Graham said.

Ronald McDonald House South East Queensland Business and Finance Manager Steve Whitehead said the result from the Points for Hope initiative was a wonderful effort by Jupiters Hotel & Casino and the Gold Coast Titans.

"We'd like to thank everyone involved with this fantastic donation throughout the 2015 NRL season, which will go towards our expanding accommodation and support services," Steve said.

"Ronald McDonald House South East Queensland is currently working towards building our new House at South Brisbane with concrete already being poured on the ground floor of the development.

“Our new House will ensure we are able to continue providing a ‘home away from home’ for so many families caring for their seriously ill or injured child.”

Earlier this year, another rugby league initiative also raised significant funds for RMH SEQ. Jupiters Hotel & Casino and Treasury Casino & Hotel donated \$5,000 to RMH SEQ for every point Queensland scored during the State of Origin series, generating an additional financial contribution of \$405,000 to the charity.

Both campaigns are part of Jupiters Hotel & Casino and Treasury Casino & Hotel’s pledge to raise \$3 million over three years for RMH SEQ.

Echo Entertainment Group, which operates Treasury Casino & Hotel in Brisbane and Jupiters Hotel & Casino on the Gold Coast, is one of Queensland’s largest private sector employers with a workforce of more than 3,500. The company is proud to support a range of community groups, charities and sponsorships including Surf Life Saving Queensland (supported since 1994), Cerebral Palsy League of Queensland (supported since 2002) and Ronald McDonald House South East Queensland. More than \$100 million has been contributed to the Jupiters Casino Community Benefit Fund (now the Gambling Community Benefit Fund) since 1987 for grants to community groups across southern Queensland.

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Ronald McDonald House South East Queensland

Ronald McDonald House South East Queensland (RMH SEQ) provides accommodation and support services for seriously ill children and their families who live more than 50km from the treating hospital in Brisbane. Our Ronald McDonald Houses help to preserve the family unit in the midst of physical, emotional and financial stress. It also gives parents the chance to draw hope and comfort from other families in similar situations, while being supported by dedicated and friendly staff and volunteers. We aim to provide a ‘home away from home’ for all of our guests

RMH SEQ currently has two houses in Brisbane; one at Herston beside the Royal Brisbane & Women’s Hospital and one at South Brisbane near the Lady Cilento Children’s Hospital (LCCH) and Mater Mothers Hospital. The organisation also has Family Rooms located inside the Gold Coast University Hospital and other services in the LCCH. Our services within the LCCH also extend to 10 emergency overnight accommodation rooms.