



**JOINT MEDIA RELEASE, 16 April 2019**

### **Star chefs serve up sweet Easter treat for families at Ronald McDonald House**

With Easter just around the corner, families of seriously ill or injured children staying at Ronald McDonald House South Brisbane will enjoy an early sweet treat delivered by The Star Entertainment Group (TSEG) with its chefs preparing a gourmet feast and the company making a \$60,000 donation.

The gourmet feast is part of the charity's regular 'Make a Meal' events, which TSEG has been supporting through its Treasury Brisbane and The Star Gold Coast properties as part of its wider partnership with the charity established in 2014.

Dr John Gilmour, CEO of Ronald McDonald House Charities SEQ (RMHC SEQ), welcomed the donation and the return of the company's chefs and other team members for the heartfelt 'Make a Meal'.

'It means so much to have The Star Entertainment Group support us - their ongoing commitment helps us to continue providing essential accommodation and support services to seriously ill children and their families requiring care at the treating hospitals in Brisbane and on the Gold Coast,' Dr Gilmour said.

"Each year our Ronald McDonald Houses support over 5,000 families from regional areas throughout Queensland and the generosity shown by TSEG will assist us in keeping our doors open for the many families who require our services.

"We currently have around 79 families in residence at our South Brisbane House so being able to enjoy a wonderful meal together brings joy and unites these families who are going through incredibly difficult circumstances."

Treasury Brisbane Chief Operating Officer Kelvin Dodt said he was proud of the company's ongoing support, backed by its chefs and other employees who regularly volunteer throughout the year.

"RMHC SEQ provides an invaluable service for families who don't necessarily have the ability to live near the hospital while their children receive essential and often life-saving medical help," Mr Dodt said.

"After a long and tiring day at the hospital, cooking is probably the last thing they want to do, which is why we're pleased to support these 'Make a Meal' events.

"Led by our Treasury Brisbane team, our chefs are producing a spectacular Easter feast for the families, which will also include fun chocolate-themed activities for the children like egg decorating.

"Our support is part of our company's wider commitment to the Brisbane community where we have been an active member for more than 20 years, and in the Gold Coast community for over 30 years."

The chefs will deliver a gourmet buffet featuring tapas and cold meat platters, seafood, roasts, pasta, assorted salads, seasonal vegetables, and breads; and a selection of fruits, pastries, and desserts.

In 2014, TSEG committed to raising \$3 million towards the construction of RMHC SEQ's South Brisbane House and supporting the charity's Ronald McDonald Family Rooms at the Gold Coast University Hospital.

Ahead of the South Brisbane House's opening in November 2016, it also helped the charity reap significant savings of around \$140K in furniture and electronics for the House; and most recently made grants totalling \$150K towards the charity.

Ends

**Easter 'Make a Meal' event details:**

**When:** From 5.00pm, Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2019 (dinner to be served from 5.30pm)  
**Where:** Ronald McDonald House South Brisbane  
Ground Floor, 283 Vulture Street, South Brisbane  
**Talent** Dr John Gilmour, CEO, RMHC SEQ  
**Available:** Kelvin Dodt, Chief Operating Officer, Treasury Brisbane  
Families staying at RMHC SEQ

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**RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND**

Ronald McDonald House South East Queensland (RMHC SEQ) provides accommodation for the families of seriously ill or injured children requiring care in treating hospitals within Brisbane and on the Gold Coast. Our organisation helps 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.

RMHC SEQ currently has three Houses in Brisbane; one at Herston beside the Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital, one at South Brisbane directly opposite the Queensland Children's Hospital (QCH) and Mater Mothers Hospital and a House in the QCH.