



PRESS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Danielle Blewett

PHONE: 0400642794

FERRARIS for HOBART TODDLERS WITH DISABILITY

Two lucky Hobart toddlers who live with physical disability, will get to test drive specially modified tiny Ferraris to help with their mobility challenges, cognitive and social development at Lenah Valley tomorrow.

The pair is part of an innovative pilot programme – The Little Car Yard - developed by StGiles with TADTAS at StGiles Child Disability Service, Lenah Valley.

The LENA VALLEY trial is a Tasmanian first, and one of only a few nationally, based on evidence that suggests children with physical disability who use powered mobility devices (usually wheelchairs) as young as 12 months show enhanced social interaction and cognitive development.

“Friday is the first ever trial of the project using affordable, off the shelf, tricked-up sports cars for children between one and five years to determine what changes can be recorded in child development,” StGiles physiotherapist Jason Brooke said.

“The cars will allow children to participate in their family life as their typically developed siblings and peers do.

“We will encourage families to use their cars in the community and from this believe other children will begin to interact with the child with disability.”

The cars are individually modified by StGiles physiotherapists and occupational therapists to offer body support to children with moderate to severe physical disabilities that prevent them walking, for instances, cerebral palsy.

StGiles is a not-for-profit child allied health service at Lenah Valley where an allied health team of 40 occupational therapists, speech pathologists, psychologists and physiotherapists work with some 3000 Hobart children living with disability.

TADTAS is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to improving the independence, dignity and quality of life for people with disabilities. They achieve this by using the skills of their volunteers to build special aids that are not available commercially.

PICTURE OPPORTUNITY: Friday, October 30, 11am, 11A Gant Street, Lenah Valle