



## PRESS RELEASE

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# What Does Walk With Me Mean?

Olivia and Zoe van der Molen will be alongside Joseph Murray this Saturday in a public walk and wheel for disability awareness from the Brisbane Street Mall to City Park.

The fifth annual Walk with Me will be held, rain or shine, on Saturday with a free family picnic and party in City Park from 11am.

It's not too late to be part of Walk with Me. Registration is from 9am tomorrow (Saturday) morning in the Brisbane Street Mall with walkers leaving the Myer corner at 10.30am for a short walk/wheel to City Park.

“We are so pleased by the support our community has shown for Walk With Me this year,” StGiles General Manager Communications and Engagement Danielle Blewett said

“Most Tasmanians know someone who is touched by disability, whether it's a family member, friend, neighbour or colleague and the success of the day shows that we're on the right track to a future where people recognise and celebrate the diversity within our community.

“Come along, get a t-shirt and balloon and show your support and understanding for people living with disability.”



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Zoe and Joseph have used StGiles physiotherapy and occupational therapy services since birth. Walk with Me is also a major fundraiser for StGiles therapy equipment.

Joseph, 11, attends St Thomas More's Primary School and lives with distal arthrogryposis - a disorder characterized by joint irregularities that restrict movement in his hands and feet.

He says he's not afraid of anything and is StGiles 2015 Walk with Me ambassador.

Joseph has used StGiles physiotherapy and occupational therapy services as well as attending hydro therapy and regular casting appointments.

Zoe, 3, has metachromatic lucodystrophy, a very rare disorder. She is responding well to the intensive medical and general therapies she receives from StGiles.

StGiles senior physiotherapist Natasha Mackinnon said Joseph and Zoe were also fortunate to have the extraordinary skills of their parents and extended families who are active in the children's therapy lives with StGiles.

"Whole of family involvement with a child's therapy is a significant contributor to positive outcomes," Ms Mackinnon said.

Dick Smith Walk With Me is an initiative of Ability First Australia with walks held from August to December annually in every capital city and major regional centres.

One in five Australians has some form of disability.

**Photo opportunity** Thursday, November 12, 3pm Thursday : Hart Conservatory. Joseph Murray will be with Olivia (mum) and Zoe van der Molen and physiotherapist Natasha Mackinnon.



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