



MEDIA RELEASE

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The Biggest “Carn the Kids” Shout of Them All

It won't just be “Carn the Bulldogs” or “Carn the Eagles” you will hear from the stands at the MCG this Saturday, there will be plenty of “Carn the Kids” shouts too at one of the biggest **Carn the Kids** events ever in a program that has seen thousands of young children and their carers and families enjoy a free, fun day out at the footy.

Attending this Saturday afternoon's clash between the LeasePlan Western Bulldogs and the West Coast Eagles as special guests of LeasePlan and the Western Bulldogs will be 1000 happy kids, carers and families sourced from more than 100 different worthy organisations - including the CREATE Foundation, Variety Club, the Royal Children's Hospital and the Refugee Minor Program.

Kids in foster care, from refugee backgrounds, terminally ill, disabled - all sorts of kids - will be sitting together with their free hot pies and showbags, smiling, laughing and cheering on the Bulldogs.

By the end of Saturday's game, **Carn the Kids** - with some invaluable support from the AFL, Toyota and venue caterers – will have entertained more than 5,000 kids, and their families and carers, at 16 Bulldogs' games in five different states.

At the **Carn The Kids** events, LeasePlan and the Western Bulldogs secure a block of tickets and invite a group of kids identified through various hospitals, care agencies and charities, plus their carers/guardians, to come along and have a fun day out.

The kids get showbags, t-shirts, face paint and – the most important part of a day at the footy – a hot pie as part of their special day out.

Angle/hook.....

(NOTE_ Robert Copolov's involvement is still TBC
– DO NOT communicate externally until confirmed)**

Avid Bulldogs fan, 13 year old Robert Copolov, will be amongst the happy throng on Saturday, just as he was at the first ever Carn the Kids round in 2003 – only this time he will be a lot more robust in his support of his beloved team.

In 2003, then aged 11, Robert was stricken with the effects of Biliary Artesia – a condition that affects the bile duct and causes liver problems. Medical bills, not family trips to the footy, were a priority for the family.

Just a few weeks after enjoying a pie on his Dad's lap at the inaugural 2003 event, Robert was in the operating theatre for a liver transplant. This procedure was a fabulous success and a much healthier Robert will celebrate by coming along as a very special guest who was part of the foundation of the Carn the Kids program.





The last time such a huge Carn the Kids event took place, the Bulldogs caused a big upset when a Matthew Croft and Simon Garlick inspired performance toppled the Kangaroos at the business end of the 2004 season. Robert, and hundreds of other kids would love a similar result against the Eagles, but they'll leave happy either way.

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