

# MEDIA RELEASE REQUEST



<20 November 2009>

## **Breanna's first swing is third of its kind on the Coast**

Wheelchair bound Sunshine Coast child Breanna Medcalf will experience the sensation of a swing in the park for the first time ever today as Cr Keryn Jones officially opens the Coast's 3<sup>rd</sup> Liberty Swing at Ayliffe Park, Sunshine Beach.

The Swing, a unique opportunity for Sunshine Coast's disabled residents is thanks to Variety Queensland and a generous \$25,000 donation from Brisbane barrister Brian Stewart.

The Liberty Swing will enable children of all abilities to play together, and is the third of its kind on the Coast.

Director of Fundraising Tanya Hundloe said that the Liberty Swing works much the same way as an ordinary swing, but has been designed and engineered to accommodate a wheelchair.

"The Liberty Swing is a great invention that allows kids with disabilities to enjoy the freedom that able bodied children have always had access to". Said Ms Hundloe said.

"All kids should have the right to the same privileges and having fun on a swing in the park is no exception. The addition to the playground will put many smiles on the faces of children, families and their carers." Said Ms Hundloe.

Councillor Keryn Jones said that placing the swings in the right location was an important consideration.

"We had a number of possible locations across the Coast, but needed to make sure we chose an area that had facilities to complement the swing," Cr Blumel said.

Swings are located across the Coast in Noosaville Lions Park, Rotary Park Cotton Tree and from today, Ayliffe Park, Golden Beach.

A ramp attaches to the swing so the wheelchair can be rolled on to it. The swing also features a set of instructions and diagrams showing how to use the swing safely. The Liberty Swing includes a collapsible chair with a retractable harness-type seatbelt for those who are not necessarily wheelchair-dependent but who are unable to use a conventional swing.

Keys are required for access and are available to residents, visitors and disability service providers from the following locations:

- Maroochydore Library 42, 6th Avenue Cotton Tree, Maroochydore
- Council's Customer Service Office 9 Pelican St Tewantin and Caloundra Office
- Customer Service Centre - Omrah Avenue Caloundra
- Caloundra Road Visitor Information Centre, Bulcock Street Visitor Information Centre

**ENDS**

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**Variety, the children's charity**

12 Railway Terrace, Milton QLD 4064

P: (07) 3367 6999

F: (07) 3368 3328

w: [www.varietyqld.org.au](http://www.varietyqld.org.au)

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## **LIBERTY SWING LAUNCH FACTS:**

- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November
- 10am at Ayliffe Park, Golden Beach, Sunshine Coast
- Councillor Keryn Jones will official open the Swing
- Breanna Medcalfe (a local Sunshine Coast disabled girl who is wheelchair bound) will be at the launch and will be given the honour of being the first child to use the swing.
- Brian Stewart donated \$25,000 for the Liberty Swing
- Sunshine Coast Regional Council provided the installation costs

**For more information or to arrange a photo opportunity please contact**

**Carly Quinn, Public Relations Manager on 0407 254 612**

**Samantha Shumack, Appeals & Grants Coordinator 0439 664 077**