



Media release

For immediate release

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ABC television stars invite community to share their dream

On Monday 11 August, a captivated audience at Subiaco Library enjoyed a special screening and Q&A with stars and families of new ABC television series, *The Dreamhouse*.

Set in Subiaco, and narrated by well known Australian comedian and TV presenter Adam Hills, the groundbreaking television series follows the experiences of three young adults with intellectual disabilities who fly the nest and share a 'dream house' together for ten weeks.

Stars of the show, Kirk, Justin and Sarah, along with their mothers, house 'buddy' Phil, and Celia Tait from production company Artemis International, answered questions about the show and shared their experiences.

Over 600 000 Australian viewers tuned in for the first episode of the series on Thursday 7 August. Ms Tate said there had been an overwhelming positive response, with many comments flowing in to the ABC and Artemis via email and social media.

"The show has captured the imagination, hearts and souls of many Australians and through that, broken down some of the barriers."

"This project was the riskiest project (we have done) and I would hate to think that people are criticising it – but actually they're not. I think perhaps it has even surprised the ABC how much it has reached into people's minds and hearts."

The mothers spoke candidly about their journeys, what it's like having a child with a disability, and the emotional rollercoaster they experienced throughout the filming of the show.

Justin's mum, Margaret said: "I remember holding this Down syndrome baby in the hospital thinking 'how am I going to cope with him?' and then thirty two years later, 'how am I going to cope without him?'"

A year after filming, some of the housemates continue to live at the Subiaco property, which is owned by the City of Subiaco and leased to Foundation Housing. The city provided support to the young people, their families and the production crew throughout filming, and continues to provide support to the



remaining residents of the house through its Home and Community Care (HACC) program.

City of Subiaco Mayor Heather Henderson said she hoped the success of the project would inspire similar arrangements for other people with disabilities.

“Listening to the mothers talk on Monday night about how it was ‘near impossible’ to find suitable living arrangements before this show was a reminder of the struggles families of people with disabilities go through.

She continued: “If nothing else, there’s no doubt the series has sparked a lot of conversation in the Subiaco community and throughout the rest of Australia about alternative accommodation for young adults with disabilities.”

Episode three of *The Dreamhouse* will air on Thursday 21 August on ABC television at 9.30pm.

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Photo

Left to right: Mums Margaret Marshal, Julie Britton and Peta Barker, Celia Tate from Artemis International and housemate Justin answer questions from the audience at Subiaco Library.

Notes to Editor

The City of Subiaco is recognised as a local government leader in a range of areas such as environmental and social initiatives, and long-term planning for the future. It is located in the inner metropolitan area of Perth and includes the suburbs of Subiaco, Daglish and parts of Nedlands, Shenton Park, Crawley and Jolimont. A major centre for employment with a diverse and growing business sector, the city provides important services including waste collection, town planning and public recreation facilities, to more than 19 000 residents. The city aims to maintain its vibrant sense of community and enhance the lives and well-being of everyone who lives, visits and works in Subiaco. For more information about the City of Subiaco, visit **www.subiaco.wa.gov.au**