



PRESS RELEASE

2 April 2007

Theme: **"Playing Fields Not Minefields"**

Where: Martin Place, Sydney
When: 7:00am - 9:00am Wednesday 4 April 2007

Aim: **Alert the public** on the dangers for people in landmine affected zones
Raise funds to clear an area of land the size of Martin Place of mines
Celebrate Australia's global contribution to mine action

Austcare has booked Martin Place Wednesday 4th April From 7:00am-9.00am to launch Landmine Action Week.

Michael Milton (Australia's fastest skier) will be challenging **Greg Hunt**, (the Australian Government's Special Representative on Mine Action and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs), **Shaun Boyle** (Australia's fastest Olympic Skeleton Racer), school groups and corporate teams to experience a mock landmine zone by competing in an obstacle course as part of the launch of Landmine Action Week.

"Playing Fields Not Minefields" aims to involve the Australian community in active fundraising to support Austcare's work in landmine action. Our theme connects with the Australian love of sport and freedom and inspires us to give generously to those who can not enjoy the simple pleasure of playing safely.

Martin Place will be transformed for the passing public with danger signs marking "unsafe zones," with "de-miners" demonstrating their work in flack jackets, helmets with mine detectors. People in 78 countries worldwide experience landmines as a barrier to getting to work and farming their land, reaching school or simply playing.

Young Cambodian Australian dancers from the Khmer community's Khemara Antkor Dance group and Afro Peruvian dancers Brisas Del Peru along with Colombian band, The Oscar Jimenez Quartet will entertain the public along with young sporting groups playing sport on a safe cleared mine field. Cambodia and Columbia two of over 78 mine affected countries.

Easter is the perfect time to engage and alert the public to the perils of living in landmine affected areas and urge them to give new life to affected families.

Sufficient funding can establish a project to assist a whole community through de-mining, mine risk education, survivor assistance and sustainable livelihood recovery in places like Cambodia and Afghanistan where Austcare is working.

Join us to encourage the public to get involved with **"Playing Fields Not Minefields"**. Together we can significantly increase the Australian people's assistance provided to people across mine affected countries and further

Australia's proud record in mine action, supported by successive Australian governments. Walk in to any ANZ branch around Australia to take donations for landmine victims over April and May only, call 1300 66 66 72 or visit www.austcare.org.au.

There will be prizes and **rewards for the fearless**:

Fastest and safest participant through the obstacle course will win a monster basket from Darrell Lea choc-a-block packed with Easter goodies.

We have thousands of Easter eggs supplied by Darrell Lea, hot cross buns from Tip Top and hot coffee from Café Express for all participants and available for the public to purchase with all proceeds going to Austcare's Mine Action program. Anyone can hold a *Hot Cross Bun Morning Tea* to support "**Playing Fields Not Minefields**".

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