



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Fifteen children, suffering from a variety of life-threatening illnesses will travel from all over New Zealand to take part in one of Cure Kids' most special events – Ticket to Hope.**

The kids will come from as far north as Auckland, and as far South as Mosgiel, accompanied by one parent/caregiver and will stay in Queenstown from Friday 10<sup>th</sup>-Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June.

Cure Kids Fundraising & Event Manager for the South Island, Nicola Brockie says it will be a holiday of a lifetime experience for everyone involved, but especially the kids.

“It is a fantastic chance for the children and their parents to leave their hospital treatments behind for a weekend and throw themselves into the action packed programme. It's a chance for them to live in the moment, even if it is for a few precious days and just enjoy not being different from other kids. It's always exciting to see their reactions and we have some great activities planned. It will be exciting for them to have the Shortland Street Stars along too.”

Television personality Renato Bartolomei and Ben Barrington of TV3's hottest new show The Almighty Johnsons, are joining the children for the weekend and will be involved in all of their activities. “I love joining Cure Kids for Ticket to Hope because it allows me to meet some inspirational people, both young and not so young, who are accepting some of life's harder challenges head on, often with a smile, and who remind me how wonderful life can be. I leave invigorated and inspired and better for the experience,” says Renato.

Ms Brockie says Queenstown businesses and companies have been incredibly supportive offering a day in the snow at Coronet peak, rides on the Kawarau Jet, Skyline Gondola trips and luge riding. They will play mini-golf at Caddy shack and watch four of the adults in the group Bungy Jump!

The children and their parents will stay in the award winning Accor Hotel, Mercure Resort and will be hosted by Queenstown restaurants, Avanti, and McDonald's Restaurant, during the weekend as well as the famous Minus 5 ice-bar and Patagonia chocolates in Arrowtown.

Ticket to Hope is an absolute all expenses paid treat for the children and their parents, but also attending the event are individuals from Cure Kids' supporting companies who have gone the extra mile for the Charity. These people have been identified by their peers as champions throughout the year raising much needed funds for Cure Kids.

"Ticket to Hope made such a huge impact on everyone who has previously attended that they are still writing to us about it," says Ms Brockie. "We know it is a winning formula, where the weekend is all about the children and it also provides the parents with an opportunity to share their respective journeys in a positive, relaxed environment rather than in hushed tones on a hospital corridor – they get to see their kids being just that - kids having a ball. They really are the kings and queens of Queenstown during the three short days they're here."

**For further information please contact:**

Nicola Brockie  
Fundraising & Event Manager, Cure Kids  
027 551 3933  
[n.brockie@curekids.org.nz](mailto:n.brockie@curekids.org.nz)

Josie Spillane  
Fundraising & Business Development Director  
027 221 4334  
[j.spillane@curekids.org.nz](mailto:j.spillane@curekids.org.nz)

**About Cure Kids**

Cure Kids was established over 35 years ago to address the lack of research into life-threatening childhood illnesses in New Zealand. During that time we have invested over \$26 million in vital medical research. This research has helped save many young lives and improved the quality of life for thousands of children.

Over the years Cure Kids has funded research advancements in diseases such as childhood Leukaemia, Long QT Syndrome, Cystic Fibrosis, cot death, genetic research, and severe asthma. Today, we are more committed than ever to help find answers to the many cruel, life-threatening illnesses that devastate the lives of young children and their families.

*Our Mission: To improve the health of children through research and its outcomes*

*Our Vision: To be a credible international funder of children's health to find cures for kids*