

FOR MEDIA

CRAIG EMERSON

Member for Rankin

Have a heart this month and dig deep

29 January 2008

One in 100 children is born with a congenital heart defect. That is just over 2,000 children a year in Australia. Congenital heart defect is the No. 1 cause of child death, and congenital heart defects can never be completely cured and, sadly, for many they can never be treated.

February is Heartkids awareness month and Craig Emerson, Member for Rankin is urging businesses schools and residents to go to the Heartkids website and see how we as a community can make a difference to young people's lives.

An advocate of the Heartkids Foundation, Mr Emerson has raised the plight of young people with congenital heart defects in Parliament.

Mr Emerson said, 'One gold coin can make a difference to the lives of young children who cannot attend school because of this medical problem. I urge the community to fundraise with the support of Heartkids Qld Inc. Organise a fundraiser at your school, business, community organisation or sporting club – together we can make a big difference for kids living with this illness.'

One of the great initiatives created by local student Paige Robertson is Heartkidz cams. Paige wants to supply every CHD kid with a Heartkidz cam so they can interact with their teachers and friends while in treatment at home.

Contact with friends and, yes, even teachers give kids the hope that they are not alone in their struggle.

For more information or to donate time or money please contact Heartkids Foundation 3341 8145 or go to www.heartkids.org.au.