

MEDIA RELEASE

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Life Without Barriers CEO Raising The Big Issue on Homelessness

Leading not-for-profit Chief Executive Claire Robbs has been lending a hand in Adelaide today selling copies of *The Big Issue*, to shine a spotlight on the issues of poverty and homelessness within Australia.

Ms Robbs will be taking part in International Street Paper Vendor Week selling the magazine in Rundle Mall, Adelaide from 3.30pm-4pm to raise awareness and funds to support homeless, disadvantaged and marginalised people. Ms Robbs is one of over 70 CEOs helping to raise over \$100,000 this week.

“As an organisation working with homeless people in South Australia, Life Without Barriers is committed to raising awareness and supporting people who are homeless. Initiatives – such as the Big Issue vendor program – that promote independence and ambition can make a huge difference to the lives of homeless people. This program builds self-esteem and promotes independence by developing skills that build their future by putting money directly in their pockets. By taking part today, I want to show my support for these people who are striving to better their lives” Ms Robbs said.

Homelessness can affect anyone and this is shown by the diversity of people who have turned to Life Without Barriers for homeless support services. Life Without Barriers takes a unique approach to supporting the homeless community and is always on hand to support hard to reach and complex clients, such as the transient population that resides along the Murray River. One of the best ways we found to support them was by our staff using a small boat to deliver supplies. More than just supplies, the most important service we provide is just having a regular, friendly face that our clients know and trust, as a source of ongoing support.

Life Without Barriers ensures that our clients are also continuously connected to other support services that they may otherwise miss out on. This includes access to basic life skills support, healthcare providers, mental health services and keeping each individual connected to their friends, family and wider community.

More than 500 homeless and disadvantaged people sell street papers in Australia each year. Street papers like *The Big Issue* not only provide employment for people who would otherwise struggle to find work, but also the opportunity to re-engage with their community in a meaningful way.

Since the Big Issue’s inception in Australia in 1996, nine million copies have been sold, putting more than \$18 million into the pockets of people experiencing homelessness, mental illness, disability and long-term unemployment. For more information about the Big Issue visit www.thebigissue.org.au.

For more information about Life Without Barriers Homelessness services throughout South Australia visit www.lwb.org.au.

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For more information, or for interview opportunities with CEO Claire Robbs, please contact:

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Notes to Editor

About Life Without Barriers

Life Without Barriers is a not-for-profit organisation, providing care and support services across Australia in urban, rural and remote locations, and in New Zealand.

Our community-based programs assist children, young people, adults, families and communities. We provide family support and out-of-home care, disability services, home and community care, and support to refugees and asylum seekers. We also work in the areas of mental health, homelessness and youth justice.

We have a strong commitment to reconciliation and delivering culturally sensitive programs. We respect the rights of people and the importance of relationships. These foundations shape our unique approach to care and underpin the vision and mission of our organisation.

Life Without Barriers has grown from humble beginnings into one of the most significant not-for-profit organisations in Australia, with over 100 support centres providing care services to the community. Our workforce of over 3,500 employees, carers, contractors and volunteers support 5,300 clients with high and complex needs.