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ROSIE BATTY JOINS THE AUSTRALIAN CHILDHOOD FOUNDATION AS PATRON ALONGSIDE CHRIS HEMSWORTH

For the past four years Rosie Batty has pushed on with an unrelenting pursuit for social change around the issue of family violence. Her manifesto for difference will continue in her new role as Patron for the Australian Childhood Foundation.

Rosie's grief and loss has been expressed via an incredible willingness to speak out, touching the hearts of the Australian community. After being named the Australian of the Year in 2015 for her determination to drive reform in response to family violence, Rosie's life catapulted into the public sphere. Establishing the Luke Batty Foundation to honour her son, Luke Batty, Rosie launched the "Never Alone" campaign to ensure the victims of family violence like Luke were not forgotten.

"We started Never Alone with a mission to make sure that victims could not be forgotten, putting them at the centre of a national conversation about family violence, we shone a light on an issue that needs to be prioritised.

"I am so proud of everything we have achieved. Together we gave victims a voice and demanded our leaders act." Rosie says.

The Luke Batty Foundation closed on the 16th of February 2018 to allow Rosie an opportunity to focus on her own care and wellbeing. The demands of running a national foundation are considerable and since starting it in her son's name Rosie has had little time to rest.

"I realised that I couldn't keep going at the pace I was forever. It is unsustainable and I was tired. I am now prioritising my self-care and working through how I can contribute best toward the protection and care of children.

The funds from the Foundation have been distributed to a number of family violence foundations to help them execute programs and projects. Over the past four years Rosie has engaged and supported a number of like-minded organisations who focus in on reform and change around family violence.

"The Australian Childhood Foundation has always held a strong resonance. The Foundation has a very clear focus on children impacted by family violence and abuse and over the years we have talked about how we might together ensure that children's voices are heard in the midst of this maddening violence", says Rosie.

"It became clear that winding up the Luke Batty Foundation was the right choice so I began to talk with the team of the Australian Childhood Foundation about how my voice and journey could help us continue the fight for children, united together.



"In November last year I made the decision to sign on as a Patron and It feels right. My hope is this move will allow me to find a better personal balance whilst being able to contribute and ensure that children like my Luke are never forgotten".

Dr Joe Tucci, CEO of The Australian Childhood Foundation says having Rosie join the Foundation as Patron, alongside our existing Patron Chris Hemsworth, is significant.

"Rosie's personal journey is one of pain, courage and commitment. Rosie's contribution to the Royal Commission, and the broader and prolific issue of family violence in this country, has meaningfully changed the way the Australian community engage and view these issues"

"We understand first-hand the incredible demands of running a Foundation as it takes significant ongoing resources, funding and energy. In uniting forces and purpose, we hope to be able to support Rosie's powerful influence to continue a very important role in this conversation and the fight for reform and societal change".

Together the Foundation and Rosie will continue to work to ensure that the community prioritises children safety amidst the violence and to change the life stories for the children impacted by this violence and abuse.

The Issue and The Australian Childhood Foundation's Impact

Each year, the Foundation provides specialist intervention to 1200 – 1500 children and young people and/or their families or carers.

94% of children show a significant reduction in their trauma symptoms in their first 12 months at the Foundation.

92% of schools report that they are clearer about how to respond to traumatised children as a result of their involvement with the Foundation.

88% of foster carers report feeling less stressed and more confident in knowing how to support and look after the children in their care and 86% of children do not experience any placement breakdowns after their involvement with the Foundation.

64% of children successfully engage in a social group or sport for the first time as a result of the Foundation's intervention.

<http://www.childhood.org.au> <https://www.facebook.com/australianchildhood/>

<https://twitter.com/AusChildhood> <https://www.instagram.com/auschildhood/>

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