

# JOINT Media OPPORTUNITY



## POOL FOR SPECIAL NEEDS A CALL TO ACTION

**When:** 12 noon, Wednesday, January 29

**Where:** KING GEORGE V Oval North Hobart

**Who:** Children who rely on hydrotherapy - St Giles Society/Arthritis Tasmania

**DISABLED children** requiring specialist hydrotherapies are asking for political support in their quest for a purpose built, heated pool.

The St Giles Society –which provides 4000 children in Southern Tasmania with physiotherapy, hydrotherapy, occupational therapy and speech pathology – has called on the State Liberal and Labor teams for a bi-partisan push to get funding for a \$600,000, heated hydrotherapy pool at Glenorchy.

Plans for the proposed 11m public pool are already incorporated into the redevelopment of the King George V football precinct.

The pool has also been approved by the Glenorchy City Council and would be managed by respected Hobart rehabilitation physiotherapist John Kingston.

However, funding for the pool became mired during the 2013 Federal election and the subsequent change of government.

“It’s impossible for an organisation like ours to find the dollars for this sort of project,” St Giles Chief Executive Ian Wright said.

“We ask our State Liberal and Labor teams to work towards to attracting Federal

and State funding to this much needed project.”

St Giles Manager Kirsty Bartlett Clark said regular hydrotherapy assists children with Cerebral Palsy and other conditions to maintain muscle strength and range of motion.

“Without this, children’s posture can deteriorate, pain may increase and children’s wellbeing and quality of life are compromised,” Ms Bartlett Clark said.

Other organisations would benefit, Ms Bartlett Clark said.

Chief Executive of Arthritis Tasmania Jackie Slyp said many, many people with severe arthritis relied on hydrotherapy to keep a range of motion in their joints.

“Movement in water is essential to keep people with all forms of arthritis mobile,” Mrs Slyp said.

**When:** TODAY (Wednesday, January 29)

**Who:** St Giles Manager Kirsty Bartlett Clark (mob 0457751708)

**ENDS.**

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