



...Helping People Breathe Better...

**Tuesday 1 September 2009**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**ASTHMA WEEK SPRINGS UP IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

1 – 7 September marks National Asthma Week around the nation; a week when the Asthma Foundations of Australia ask the community to think about asthma and how it impacts on Australians. With over two million Australians living with asthma, it is expected that everyone is affected by asthma; be it via a family member, friend, work colleague or sporting peer.

The theme of National Asthma Week in 2009, is a simple one “*Do you know what to do?*”. This week the Asthma Foundation of WA is asking the entire State to consider if they know what to do; be it, to manage their asthma, or to respond to an asthma emergency.

CEO of the Asthma Foundation of WA, John Gummer said, “There is a range of asthma activities occurring throughout the State this week. We encourage the community to visit the Asthma Foundation of WA website to access information about the disease and about the various free education sessions that are available. Asthma Week is the national week for promoting asthma awareness, education and self management and we hope to inspire people to learn what to do for asthma”.

A vital part of Asthma Week is creating a platform for awareness and fundraising in the community. Volunteer support is critical and the Foundation is still short on volunteers and is seeking more help for the annual Street Appeal in the Perth CBD, between 8am – 5pm on Friday 4 September.

“Throughout the year our trained asthma educators meet and speak to thousands of people impacted by the disease. Asthma is serious and very prevalent in Western Australia. The Asthma Foundation of WA works tirelessly to reach the 225,000+ Western Australians living with asthma. This week we are asking the community to think about asthma and to ensure that they know what to do to manage asthma or to treat an asthma emergency. The services are available to teach people about asthma management, the correct way to use asthma medication and how to save someone’s life in the event of an asthma attack”, Mr Gummer said.

Free asthma education is offered throughout Perth during Asthma Week. In addition to this, hundreds of WA schools, pharmacies, hospitals, GPs and childcare centres are conducting Asthma Week displays in their respective organisations.

“The Asthma Week Street Appeal is a vital annual fundraiser for the work of the Asthma Foundation of WA. Financial support from the community assists with funding asthma medical research and asthma services in Western Australia; so please dig deep when you see our volunteers in the city on Friday. Alternatively, if you would like to volunteer to shake the tin for a couple of hours on Friday, we welcome your assistance”, Mr Gummer said.

For more information on volunteering, asthma information and the free asthma education scheduled during Asthma Week, please visit [www.asthmawa.org.au](http://www.asthmawa.org.au), or phone 9289 3600.

-Ends-

Media interviews and photographs are available with John Gummer and the Asthma Educators from the Asthma Foundation of WA. Please also make contact if you would like to contact speak to a local family impacted by asthma.

**Media Contact:** Kate Van Saane, Strategic Relationship Coordinator, (08) 9289 3663, 0423 856 821, E: [kate.vansaane@asthmawa.org.au](mailto:kate.vansaane@asthmawa.org.au)