

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **CLOWNING AROUND DELIVERS SMILES TO KIDS**

A special kind of medicine was delivered today at The Children's Hospital at Westmead, thanks to a financial grant by waste and recycling company SITA Australia.

'The Clown Doctors' provide sick children in hospital with a unique medicinal treatment; fun, smiles and laughter.

Thanks to a \$4,368 SITA Community Grant, the Clown Doctors can continue to visit sick children in Sydney's west.

Run by The Humour Foundation, the program assists in the treatment and recovery of seriously ill children at the bedside. This form of 'treatment' promotes positive mental health and coping during times of illness, trauma, anxiety, injury, fear and stressful situations.

Ian Doig, Fundraising Manager said that by parodying the hospital routine through performing arts, Clown Doctors bring humour therapy, emotional healing and empowerment to sick children and their families.

"With the support of SITA we'll be able to provide Clown Doctor visits to sick children and their families at The Children's Hospital at Westmead. This grant means over 200 individuals will be touched by the health benefits of humour, bringing a little light and laughter into situations that are often quite bleak," Mr Doig said.

SITA's New South Wales Sales and Business Development Manager, Geoff Gerard, presented the grant to the Clown Doctors at The Children's Hospital at Westmead, after meeting some very special kids. He said the company was delighted to be able to support such an important health initiative in Western Sydney.

"The healing power of humour and laughter has been recognised for many years and the joy that the Clown Doctors bring to their 'patients' is an integral part of the healing process for many children and their families," he said.

"SITA has a long history in Western Sydney and we're pleased to be able to support such a worthy cause. The future health of children is worth talking about and the Clown Doctors are a source of inspiration not only to the children and their parents, but the dedicated hospital staff that care for the amazing children at this hospital," Mr Gerard continued.

For more information on the Clown Doctors and The Humour Foundation, visit The Humour Foundation website at [www.clowndoctors.org.au](http://www.clowndoctors.org.au)

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**SITA AUSTRALIA (SITA)** makes it easy for our customers to put their waste to good use. We find smart and reliable solutions to collect, recover and recycle waste into valuable resources to help protect our environment. SITA employs 2,100 people and provides services to more than 56,000 commercial and industrial customers and 3.7 million residents across Australia each week.