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PRESS RELEASE

Xstrata Announces \$1 Million funding for Ronald McDonald House North Queensland to construct new Townsville housing

Mount Isa, Saturday 18 February 2012

Xstrata tonight provided a much needed \$1 million boost to Ronald McDonald House through the Xstrata Community Program North Queensland to help them complete construction of a new 12 bedroom \$3 million facility on the doorstep of Townsville Hospital, and enable them to extend their support to north Queensland families with seriously ill babies and children.

Mr Steve de Kruijff, Chief Operating Officer Xstrata Copper North Queensland made the announcement in front of 300 guests and members of the Ronald McDonald House Board in Mount Isa at the annual Ronald McDonald House North Queensland charity ball, for which Xstrata Mount Isa Mines was also a Gold Sponsor.

Mr de Kruijff said that childhood illness can have a devastating effect on families, on top of the fear and uncertainty that exists while managing a family when a child is in hospital, often for extended periods of time.

"Our partnership with Ronald McDonald House will deliver tangible and long lasting benefits to north Queensland families of seriously ill children when they need it most," said Mr de Kruijff.

"We are very fortunate to have a Ronald McDonald House located in Townsville providing families with the biggest currency of all when a child is sick – TIME," he said.

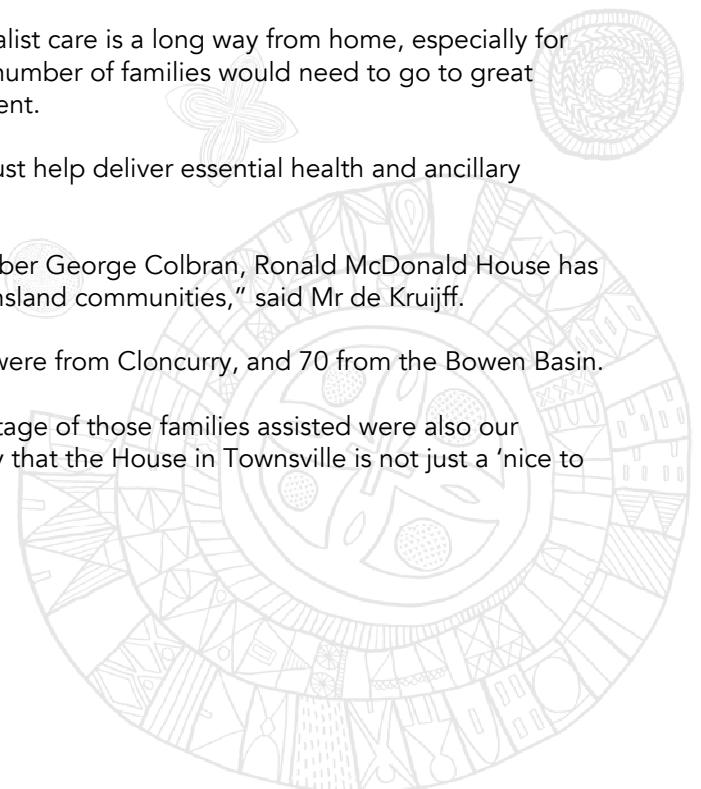
"Living in north west Queensland can often mean that specialist care is a long way from home, especially for premature babies, and without access to the House a large number of families would need to go to great expense to be with their children while they undergo treatment.

"We believe that to develop sustainable communities we must help deliver essential health and ancillary services to our host communities.

"Since its establishment in 2004 by founder and Board member George Colbran, Ronald McDonald House has assisted almost 300 families from Xstrata's local north Queensland communities," said Mr de Kruijff.

"Of those, more than 150 families were from Mount Isa, 20 were from Cloncurry, and 70 from the Bowen Basin.

"Another compelling factor for us in was that a large percentage of those families assisted were also our valued employees, and based on those statistics, I would say that the House in Townsville is not just a 'nice to have' service but a necessity," he said.



"We are delighted to support Ronald McDonald House through our Xstrata Community Program North Queensland with this \$1 million donation, and look forward to working with the charity in the coming years to help them extend their much needed services to even more families in north Queensland," said Mr de Kruijff.

Mr Paul Rissman, Ronald McDonald House North Queensland Chairman said the Board, Executive Officer and their many Townsville volunteers were overwhelmed by Xstrata's generous show of support.

"We would like to sincerely thank Xstrata for this wonderful and overwhelming donation towards our project," said Mr Rissman.

"Due to the growing demand for our services, we have outgrown our current facilities and have been fundraising for the past five years, through events such as the north Queensland charity balls, with the goal of being able to double the capacity of Ronald McDonald House in Townsville from 12 to 24 rooms so we can accommodate more north Queensland families in need," he said.

"We started with \$1million from our fundraising efforts to commence the project, received a further \$1 million grant from Ronald McDonald House Australia, and now Xstrata has provided us with the final \$1 million needed to secure the future of our \$3 million project," said Mr Rissman.

"Since opening in 2004 we have provided critical accommodation to over 1,400 families while their children are being treated at the adjacent Townsville Hospital, and we have been full every night since.

"Sadly, that means we have had to turn away many families every night who require critical accommodation at a time of great need. These families have to find accommodation and often resort to caravan parks, friends, or expensive motels, and then commute daily to the hospital to support their children during medical treatment.

"Ninety-eight per cent of families who stay with us come from regional areas of north Queensland, and we receive daily feedback from our families that Ronald McDonald House provides them with a home away from home and a friendly and caring environment that supports the entire family unit," he said.

"Our partnership with Xstrata through the Xstrata Community Program North Queensland will now enable us to get on with the job of helping more families in need," said Mr Rissman.

"We can now refocus our fundraising to deliver additional services for families such as:

- Growing our Learning Program to assist children catch up missed schooling while suffering sickness or illness
- Extending our assistance to local Townsville families with programs like the Ronald McDonald House Family Room, in planning, to provide a home away from home at the Townsville Hospital, and
- Assisting us with the recent establishment of Queensland's first Ronald McDonald House family retreat in Palm Cove providing holiday accommodation for families who have missed out on a holiday due to the illness of their child. When the family gets back on its feet we offer the family one week free accommodation to help on the journey of recovery.

The \$3 million Ronald McDonald House project includes a minor refurbishment of the original 12 room facility. Construction on the new 12 room facility commenced in July 2011 and is scheduled for completion in September 2012.



Steve de Kruijff, Chief Operating Officer Xstrata Copper North Queensland, presents Xstrata's \$1 million donation to Paul Rissman, Ronald McDonald House North Queensland Chairman, and Lisa Hurst, Chair of the organising committee for Ronald McDonald House Charity Ball Mount Isa.

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Neither the content of the company's website nor the content of any other website accessible from hyperlinks on the company's website is incorporated into, or forms part of, this announcement

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Notes to editors

About the Xstrata Community Program North Queensland

The Xstrata Community Program North Queensland has entered its eighth year of working in partnership with community organisations and government to address the areas of greatest need in the north Queensland communities where our employees live and work.

The program addresses the six key areas of enterprise and job creation, education, environment, social and community development, health, and arts and culture.

Since 2005 we have made a significant contribution to north Queensland and Xstrata has provided almost \$25 million funding for projects in our local host communities such as installing computer rooms in schools, helping to train medical staff, improving medical services, and helping disadvantaged people gain skills and jobs.

We have proudly partnered the Townsville Hospital in previous years to provide much needed state of the art equipment for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, such as the RETCAM II in 2008 to improve outcomes for premature babies in achieving full sight.

About Xstrata plc

We are a major producer of a range of vital commodities used in everything from constructing buildings and delivering electricity, to developing jet engines and mobile phones. We are one of the top five global producers of copper, thermal and metallurgical coal, ferrochrome, zinc and nickel and we also produce silver, lead, platinum, gold, cobalt and vanadium.

Founded in 2002 and headquartered in Switzerland, we operate in over 20 countries and employ over 70,000 people at more than 100 operations and projects around the world. We work in a responsible and sustainable way, with an entrepreneurial spirit and dynamic approach. For more information, visit www.xstrata.com

About Xstrata Copper

We are the fourth largest global copper producer and one of the world's largest producers of smelter, refined and recycled copper, including from third party materials.

The copper we produce is essential to our modern society, being used extensively in electronic, consumer and building products, and with its use in green-technologies, anti-microbial applications and ability to be recycled, it is playing a vital role in our sustainable future.

Headquartered in Brisbane, Australia, we have operations and projects in eight countries and employ over 20,000 people. We play an essential role in the communities in which we live and work, by providing jobs, training, infrastructure, income for suppliers and support for social development. For more information, visit www.xstratacopper.com.