

MEDIA RELEASE

David Campbell MP
Minister for Transport
Minister for the Illawarra



COUNTRYLINK STARLIGHT EXPRESS FOR SICK CHILDREN

Wednesday 28 October 2009

Minister for Transport David Campbell today said CountryLink had joined forces with the Starlight Children's Foundation to provide 200 seriously ill children with a Starlight Escape this Saturday, 31 October 2009.

The children, and their parents or carers, will board the CountryLink Starlight Express and head to Nowra, where the children will be entertained with interactive displays from the NSW Police Highway Patrol, Rural Fire Service and Royal Australian Navy.

Navy personnel from H.M.A.S Albatross will also land a helicopter on the oval during the day.

Mr Campbell said the Express would leave Central at 08:10am and arrive at Wollongong just after 9:30am to pick up more passengers, and then head to Nowra, arriving at 11:10am.

"The crew and onboard service staff will be donating their day's wages to the Starlight Children's Foundation. An additional 50 CountryLink and Starlight Foundation volunteers will also assist onboard service and with the picnic," Mr Campbell said.

"Onboard the crew will decorate the carriages in keeping with a Halloween theme.

"CountryLink staff are keen to give these kids and their families a great day out and I commend them for donating their time to such an important cause. I'm sure the families will have an enjoyable and memorable day."

Anne Johnston from the Starlight Children's Foundation said the families would appreciate the day out.

"A Starlight Escape of this kind will provide so much fun and laughter to many seriously ill children and their families, taking them miles away from the difficulties of their everyday life of doctors, specialists and treatments," Ms Johnston said.

"Without the generosity and support of CountryLink – this Escape simply would not exist."

Since 1988, the Starlight Children's Foundation has been providing innovative programs designed to lift the spirits of these children, young people and their families when they need it most.

Photo Op: Children will be boarding the Express at Central from 7:30am, Saturday 31 October.

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