



31 March, 2014

Walking around the clock for sick children

A 24-hour walkathon will see doctors and nurses at The Children's Hospital at Westmead swapping their scrubs for workout gear this April in a bid to raise \$40,000 for orthopaedic patients.

The walkathon will take place at 10am on the 14th April in the Hospital's galleria, with staff scheduled to walk several half hour shifts on treadmills over the 24-hour period.

The event was inspired by the need to install tracks for new ceiling hoists over each bed in the Hospital's Orthopaedic Ward, a specialised ward that cares for children with complex musculoskeletal conditions.

The tracks will allow specialised ceiling hoists to be safely attached above the bed and will then enable patients to be easily transferred from bed to chair or bed to bed when they are immobile.

"The children who stay in Orthopaedic Ward are often bed-ridden for extended periods of time," Nurse Unit Manager, Andrew Cootes said, "Having use of these new ceiling hoists would help patients regain their mobility and independence, which will not only aid their recovery but also be extremely beneficial to their care and wellbeing,"

"Currently, we only have access to one manual lifter to transfer patients between locations but we hope that funds raised through the walkathon will go a long way in allowing us to purchase the 2 hoists and 24 tracks we need," he said.

Fundraising for the walkathon has already begun but staff are relying on the generous support of the community to reach their goal. The community is invited to be part of the walkathon by registering for the walk or by sponsoring a walker.

**To register, sponsor or donate to the walkathon, visit
keepkidsmoving.gofundraise.com.au**

Media Contact
Sarah Palmer
(02) 9845 0512