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Santos announces \$6 million community benefits package for SA

Santos today announced that it will spend over \$6 million supporting six new initiatives as part of its South Australian Community Fund. Community partners to benefit from the initiatives are the Adelaide Zoo, the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide, the Asthma Foundation of SA, the Starlight Children's Foundation, Come Out – the Australian Festival for Young People, and the Art Gallery of South Australia.

Santos has long embraced its role as a leading South Australian corporate citizen with a wide range of sponsorships and direct funding for entities including the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, the Australian School of Petroleum at the University of Adelaide, and Santos Stadium. Over the past year, additional sponsorships have included support to enable the Royal Institution and the University College London to establish in Adelaide.

The six new initiatives announced today include:

- Funding of \$2 million for the Adelaide Zoo to establish the Santos Conservation Centre, a new exhibition space and theatre that will be located at the entrance to the Adelaide Zoo. It will be freely accessible by the public and present issues and activities designed to raise community awareness of nature conservation.
- The Botanic Gardens of Adelaide will use its \$2 million funding for three important initiatives: the restoration of the Museum of Economic Botany, the establishment of the Kitchen Garden program and the Seed Conservation Program. The work of the gardens is increasingly important as we face the challenges of water and climate change.
- Funding for the Asthma Foundation of SA will be used in a range of activities that increase the awareness of asthma in the community and help those people who have asthma to better manage their condition. The innovative programs undertaken by Asthma SA improve the health and wellbeing of the South Australian community and they will receive \$600,000 over three years to increase their capacity to deliver these programs.
- Santos will be a Foundation Partner and contribute \$300,000 to the first Starlight Express Room in South Australia, to be opened later this year by the Starlight Foundation at the Women's and Children's Hospital. This facility will make hospital stays a little easier for seriously ill children in South Australia.

- The Santos Community Fund has invested in a new multi-dimensional indigenous program at the Art Gallery of South Australia and will contribute \$1,050,000 over a five-year period. It will be used to make the gallery's significant collection of indigenous art available online and to support a major touring exhibition of Central and Western desert painting.
- Santos is supporting Come Out – the Australian Festival for Young People, a highly acclaimed event and Australia's longest running arts festival for young people. The focus of this three-year \$90,000 partnership is the People's Puppets Project workshop in Whyalla, close to Santos' Port Bonython hydrocarbon processing and shipping facility.

Santos Chief Executive Officer David Knox said these initiatives showed Santos' continuing commitment to making a positive contribution to the South Australian community.

"Santos has a strong connection to South Australia, it is where our business started and from this base we have grown to be a major energy company, with high quality assets and projects throughout Australia and the Asia Pacific region," he said.

"We have invested in the South Australian community for over 25 years and these new arrangements continue that commitment.

"We want to make a difference in the communities we are part of and these new recipients of the Santos Community Fund have all been selected because of the positive impact they have on the community."

Premier Mike Rann said he was delighted that Santos is supporting such a diverse group of organisations and community programs in South Australia.

"Santos late last year also made a \$10 million contribution to the new University College London (UCL) campus in Adelaide to fund scholarships, research and the sponsorship of a professorial chair.

"University College London, one of the top 10 world universities in the world, set up its only campus outside of London for the first time in its 183-year history in Adelaide this year.

"In partnership with Santos, UCL will build the skills we need in science, energy and resource management that will be needed most by our burgeoning mining industry in the future.

"Santos' \$60 million Social Responsibility and Community Benefits program is a key part of the State Government's agreement to lift the company's 15 percent share cap which came into effect at the end of November last year – and continues their exemplary track record of supporting the SA community.

"At a time when the global financial crisis is having a marked downturn on corporate sponsorship of community events, I am delighted that Santos is allocating these much-needed funds for projects in need.

"I hope it will inspire other corporations to continue to give generously to worthy community organisations and events where they can," Mr Rann said.

Supporting information

Come Out – the Australian Festival for Young People

Come Out is extremely proud of its new Development Program Partnership with Santos. The partnership focuses on enhancing the lives of South Australian young people and their families, and building the sustainability of South Australia by investing in the young people who live here. The partnership between Come Out and Santos provides young people in Whyalla with skills development opportunities supported by professional artists with outcomes for the 2009 and 2011 Come Out Festivals.

For Come Out 2009, the partnership contributed to the People's Puppet Projects Whyalla. This was a long term, skills development, residency project for D'Faces of Youth Arts and resulted in the Peoples' Puppet Projects Whyalla and D'Faces Open Day in Whyalla on Thursday 14 May which was attended by almost 500 people. Members from D'Faces then traveled to Adelaide to participate in Tarndaganyangga, the Come Out opening event in Victoria Square. Come Out also presented 'Wolf' in Whyalla for the enjoyment of Santos employees and their families as a result of this partnership.

The Botanic Gardens of Adelaide

"The Botanic Gardens of Adelaide is excited that Santos will become a major cultural, education and conservation program partner for the next five years," said Executive Director Stephen Forbes.

"This partnership will enable us to undertake a number of conservation, research and education initiatives, including the community Kitchen Garden pilot program.

"Education programs such as these are becoming increasingly important in a culture where levels of food literacy are continuing to decline. As such, we plan to develop a number of food, health and wellbeing programs in association with relevant organisations and government agencies.

"This partnership will also help significant projects such as the Seed Conservation Centre project, where significant and threatened seeds are stored to protect them against the threat of climate change, and the restoration of the Museum of Economic Botany, an important and engaging presentation of the role of plants in our lives."

The Art Gallery of South Australia

Director Christopher Menz said the Art Gallery of South Australia was delighted that Santos will be the sponsor for its indigenous programs.

"Santos has been a long-term supporter of the gallery and we are pleased to be continuing this important relationship," he said.

"This sponsorship will enhance all aspects of the presentation of the gallery's outstanding indigenous collection and enable it to be brought to all Australians."

This significant agreement will allow the gallery to broaden the availability of its Aboriginal collection to the public by putting the collection online and enabling a major touring exhibition of its Central and Western desert painting. In addition, the agreement will fund a major acquisition, travel and research for the gallery's Aboriginal Curator, and the development of several new publications.

"All art lovers will benefit from this very generous sponsorship. Visitors to the gallery can enjoy the Aboriginal collection in Santos Atrium, and with the touring exhibition and implementation of the Santos Indigenous Collection Online, many more will be able to experience one of the finest collections of Aboriginal art there is," said Mr Menz.

Asthma Foundation of SA

“The Asthma Foundation of SA welcomes Santos as our new Principal Partner. Santos’ support will be invaluable in assisting the Foundation in growing community support programs and achieving our mission to help people breathe better,” says Asthma Foundation of SA Chief Executive David Bedson.

“Regrettably, there are still too many lives being lost as a direct result of asthma – and this not need be the case. Poorly managed asthma can be fatal. While it cannot be cured, evidence shows asthma can be kept under control with an up-to-date Asthma Action Plan and regular reviews with a doctor,” says Mr Bedson.

Santos’ support will enable the Foundation to engage an Asthma Friendly Workplace and Sports & Recreation Coordinator to support workplaces and sporting clubs in becoming safer environments to work and play. Santos’ patronage will increase the Foundation’s capacity to provide education, training and support to health professionals and to metropolitan and regional communities. The Foundation will have an increased capacity to provide information and support to the hundreds of thousands of South Australians who have asthma.

“This exciting partnership has allowed us to develop and distribute 16,000 Asthma Control Packs to parents of children in child care centres, schools and to the general community. We have also initiated a major public awareness campaign to promote the packs and the message – *Do you know what to do in asthma emergency? Asthma First Aid Training - It only takes one hour and you could save a life!*”

Starlight Children’s Foundation

The Starlight Express Room is a unique in-hospital program providing an inviting, non-medical environment, designed to be a haven for children and their families to escape the pain, isolation and boredom of hospital life. Located in seven major paediatric hospitals across Australia, Starlight is planning to bring the Starlight Express Room experience to the Women’s & Children’s Hospital.

The room will be a state-of-the-art entertainment space, featuring an interactive 24-hour Starlight TV Channel, the latest Nintendo Wii games, daily live shows, celebrity visits, story telling, theatre, movies, mime, dance, craft and much more – all led by the superhero Captain Starlight and volunteers.

“Santos is an outstanding corporate leader and their generous involvement as our Major Foundation Partner is vital to ensuring the many benefits of the Room will be available to hospitalised children here in SA,” said Cathy Murphy, Starlight State Manager.

“We cannot thank Santos enough for recognising how important this room is in improving the hospital experience of the many thousands of seriously ill children in our state.”

The Starlight Express Room will not exist without community support. The Santos donation of \$300,000 is a significant step towards making the room a reality.

Zoos SA

The Santos Conservation Centre is on the new free-entry precinct at the new entrance to Adelaide Zoo and close to the new panda exhibit. It will help welcome the millions of visitors to the zoo and, as it is located on the parklands close to the River Torrens and faces Botanic Park, it makes a strong physical connection between the zoo and nature. The building design and construction is based on this principle.

The centre will house semi-permanent and rotating exhibitions featuring local community conservation work, the evolution of zoos from menageries to potent conservation organisations, connections with ecology and water, multi-cultural expositions (e.g. China and pandas) and music, art, drama and other workshops that link to nature. There is also a 100-seat theatre in which wildlife documentaries and other shows can be presented, including satellite events to Womad, the Fringe and other festivals. It will become a venue and community centre in its own right and a wonderful place for functions, lectures and debates.

“The support of Santos has been essential in realising a dream of connecting with a new audience and using ‘bridges’ to nature through different experiences and routes,” said Zoos SA Director Chris West.

“The concept is innovative and, as part of a zoo partnership, unique globally. It defines a commitment to education and inspiration of people to be active in nature conservation that is very significant and will manage to be thought-provoking and fun at the same time.”

Ends

Santos stock symbols: STO (Australian Securities Exchange), STOSY (NASDAQ ADR), Ref #82-34 (Securities Exchange Commission)