

Team Westmead Autism

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“Team Westmead Autism” is a costumed charity running team formed to raise funds and awareness for children with Autism and the work done in this area at the Children's Hospital at Westmead. Team Westmead Autism comprises of staff from the Children's Hospital at Westmead, their family and friends and on 10 August 2014 the team took on the ambitious quest to conquer Sydney's gruelling 14km City2Surf. Team Westmead Autism ranks included Dora the Explorer (aka CHW School Link Coordinator Jodie Caruana), Where's Wally (aka the Sydney Children's Hospital Network Director of Mental Health David Dossetor), Batman, Tinkerbell, Wonder Woman, Captain America, and a host of other superheroes.

Team Westmead Autism were overwhelmed by the support of over 300 individuals who donated \$30,450. These funds will go directly to developing a therapy App to accompany the Children's Hospital at Westmead's own Emotion-Based Social Skills Training (EBSST). EBSST is one of the few evidence-based, theoretically derived interventions that develop social-emotional skills in young people with Autism. This is truly innovative, world-class work.

In the words of one of the doctors who ran with Team Westmead Autism who is also a parent of a child with Autism, “I

did cry when I crossed the finish line and it was of happiness to see such wonderful people supporting children with special needs like my son. ... It's so astonishing to see how passionate you and your amazing team are. Thank you.”

Team Westmead Autism's 2015 ambition is to invite more people to join the team. If you are interested in joining please contact michelle.wong@health.nsw.gov.au or keep in touch via the team Facebook Page www.facebook.com/autismwestmead

