



Media Release

19 October 2009

## GGA Board takes time out to Stand Up

The members of the Board of Girl Guides Australia took time out from a heavy meeting schedule to **Stand Up**. Forgoing a break before dinner to relax and chat, they joined the campaign to Stand Up Against Poverty on World Food Day, 16 October 2009. Lynne Price (Chief Commissioner), Belinda Allen (State Commissioner, NSW and ACT), Liz Butson (State Commissioner, Western Australia), Helen Geard (State Commissioner, Tasmania), Noella Kershaw (State Commissioner, Victoria), Trish Pratt (State Commissioner, South Australia), Margaret Rudwick (State Commissioner, Northern Territory), Susan Van Eyk (State Commissioner, Queensland), Margo Browning (Honorary Treasurer) and Fiona Krautil (National Executive Officer) were led through a series of activities by Assistant Chief Commissioner, Miriam Holmes.

Their first task was to explore some of the issues surrounding poverty, using the World Thinking Day 2010 activities: *Poverty and hunger snakes and ladders* and *Quality of life* drawing. They are now a third of the way towards earning their World Thinking Day badge for 2010!

The mood became more serious as they viewed a presentation on the horrifying reality of poverty and the work of Mercy Ships. The unique approach of Mercy Ships - sailing fully self contained hospital ships into ports of very poor countries to provide medical and development aid - brings hope and healing to the forgotten poor. The story of the girl throwing starfish back into the sea was a timely reminder that the action of an individual **can** make a difference to those in need.

The Board wholeheartedly joined together to recite the Stand Up Against Poverty pledge. After such a moving experience they agreed to send the signed pledge to the Prime Minister of Australia and various Ministers of Parliament and Senators.

They were then able to view a YouTube video prepared for the campaign by some of Guiding's young women. And what better way to finish the session then to promote the WAGGGS World Thinking Day theme - together we can end extreme poverty and hunger - and the GGA International Service Challenge for the Centenary - girls unite to read and write (a practical way of alleviating poverty).

The overwhelming message was: no more excuses, end poverty and inequality now! Guides is a safe, fun place for girls to try new things, make great friends, develop new skills and gain confidence. Girl Guides is the largest organisation for girls and young women in Australia and the world, with 10 million Girl Guides and Girl Scouts in 144 countries.

To find out more about joining visit [www.girlguides.org.au](http://www.girlguides.org.au) or call 1300 GIRL GUIDES.

ENDS



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**Photos of Stand Up attached:**

**Image 1:** Board of Girl Guides Australia making pledge to Stand up Against Poverty



**Image 2 & 3:** Board of Girl Guides Australia illustrating *Quality of Life*.



**Image 4 & 5:** Board of Girl Guides Australia playing *Poverty Snakes and Ladders*

