Media Release



12 September 2014

Aurizon's Community Giving Fund helps fly sick kids to hospital

Australia's largest rail freight operator Aurizon is kicking off another round of community grants on 15 September 2014.

The Community Giving Fund program has supported 149 worthy charities across Australia since its inception in 2011.

One of the worthy recipients was Little Wings, a charity that fly children in rural and regional NSW to the specialised oncology services available at The Children's Hospital, Westmead.

Little Wings CEO and Founder, Kevin Robinson says the grant will make a significant difference to the lives of many regional and rural NSW families.

"Aurizon's Community Giving Fund will help little Wings provide flights to paediatric patients, their families and carers from regional and rural NSW needing to access lifesaving specialised treatment at The Children's Hospital at Westmead."

"The service that Little Wings provides is a crucial service for these people as it reduces the financial burden, emotional strain and travel fatigue for these patients and their families and carers during treatment."

"Not only does this service allow access to state of the art medical facilities in a timely and safe manner for these patients but also allows patients and the families to take breaks away from treatment together in the comfort of their own home during a very traumatic time, allowing a better quality of life, recovery process and family cohesiveness for all involved."

Aurizon Managing Director and CEO Lance Hockridge is calling on the community to encourage local charities to apply.

"The Community Giving Fund can genuinely make a world of difference to those in need.

"We are calling on all charities and not for profit organisations who have projects based on environment, community safety, education or health and wellbeing to apply for a grant of up to \$20,000."

"Apply and let us help you to help those who need it."

The Community Giving Fund opens on 15 September 2014 and closes at 5pm AEDST 24 October 2014.

To apply visit <u>www.aurizon.com.au/community</u>.

