



## Our history

The Alannah and Madeline Foundation is a national charity protecting children from violence and its devastating impact.

The Foundation was set up in memory of Alannah and Madeline Mikac, aged 6 and 3, who were tragically killed with their mother and 32 others at Port Arthur, Tasmania on 28 April 1996.

We care for children who have experienced or witnessed serious violence. We also run programs that prevent violence and advocate for children's safety and wellbeing. Our vision is that every child will live in a safe and supportive environment.

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## Volunteers set to pack the 20,000<sup>th</sup> Buddy Bag for children in emergency accommodation

The Alannah and Madeline Foundation will today pack its 20,000<sup>th</sup> Buddy Bag, containing essential items for children in refuges and emergency accommodation.

More than 400 volunteers have provided the manpower to pack the Buddy Bags for the Foundation since the program began in September 2007.

Buddy Bags are provided at no cost to more than 200 foster care agencies and domestic violence refuges throughout Australia, thanks to the generous support of the community, volunteers and corporate partners, including NAB and Target.

Packing days are held every two weeks at the South Melbourne offices of the Foundation. The 20,000<sup>th</sup> milestone is the 65<sup>th</sup> packing day in four years.

"We are marking this milestone to extend our heartfelt thanks to the community, our corporate partners and dedicated volunteers, who through Buddy Bags, have helped to restore a sense of safety and security into children's lives during an incredibly traumatic time. Buddy Bags help children in need to make the journey to recovery a little easier," said Dr Judith Slocombe, CEO of The Alannah and Madeline Foundation.

**WHO:** The Alannah and Madeline Foundation, the national charity helping to keep children safe from violence.

**WHAT:** Ambassador and TV personality, Giaan Rooney, and a group of Target volunteers will be packing the 20,000<sup>th</sup> Buddy Bag. Interviews and photo opportunities available.

Dr Judith Slocombe, CEO of The Alannah and Madeline Foundation, will give a short speech on the impact of the Buddy Bags Programs across Australia.

**WHEN:** Thursday 2 June 2011, 10.15am to 11am.

**WHERE:** The Alannah and Madeline Foundation, Level 1/6 Charles Street, South Melbourne. Charles Street laneway is located between Coventry and Dorcas Streets.

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**About Buddy Bags:** Each year, tens of thousands of children in Australia enter emergency care – some arrive with only the clothes they are wearing. In response to continued demands to support children in emergency care, The Alannah and Madeline Foundation introduced 'Buddy Bags' in 2007. Buddy Bags are backpacks containing new and essential items, such as toiletries, pyjamas, socks, underwear and a pillowcase, as well as comfort items such as a book, photo-frame, money box and teddy bear. Visit [amf.org.au/buddybags](http://amf.org.au/buddybags) for more information.

**Notes to editor:** Buddy Bags Fact Sheet, Chairman's Brief (2010-2011) and The Alannah and Madeline Foundation Fact Sheet are available on request.