

## Media Statement

Friday 29 January 2010

One year has passed since Darcey Freeman was tragically killed on a day which should have been her first day of school. And it is with heavy hearts we remember the terrible circumstances in which such a young innocent life was taken.

In Australia, where one child dies a violent death every two weeks, the first anniversary of Darcey's death will be a somber reminder of the devastating impact of such violence. It is also a day to pause and reflect on the joy children bring to our lives, and the importance of celebrating children every day.

Following her death, it was the wish of Darcey's mother and her family for there to be a national celebration of children; for there to be some positive out of such a terrible tragedy. At the family's request, The Alannah and Madeline Foundation, a national charity keeping children safe from violence, made their wish a reality.

With the support of the Victorian Government's Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and Melbourne Museum, The Alannah and Madeline Foundation launched Children365 in memory of Darcey. Children365 is a national celebration of children encouraging all Australians to celebrate children every day.

Children365 begins each year on the last day of Children's Week and each month of the upcoming year has a Children365 theme.

Through Children365, Australians are encouraged to take time out from the pressures they face every day to think about why they love their children, the ways their children make them smile, and the things they will do together over the next 12 months. Activity ideas are available each month at [www.amf.org.au/children365register](http://www.amf.org.au/children365register)

Once again the family thanks the public for showing such enormous sympathy and support to them, following the loss of their precious Darcey.

The family will not be making any media statements. This anniversary is an important time for Darcey's mother and her family to have the privacy they need to grieve for the loss of their little girl. The Alannah and Madeline Foundation is assisting the family to gain this privacy by continuing to manage all media enquiries.

Thank you.



Dr Judith Slocombe  
Chief Executive Officer

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The Alannah and Madeline Foundation is a national charity protecting children from violence. We care for many children who have experienced or witnessed violence and we run programs to prevent childhood violence from occurring. Donations to support the Foundation can be made at [www.amf.org.au](http://www.amf.org.au)

**Media enquiries** to Darcey's mother and her family should be directed to Kristina Garla, Communications Manager, The Alannah and Madeline Foundation on **0409 700 192**.