

To: Council Reporter/Chief Reporter

From: Robyn Fennell – CCC Communication Team

MEDIA RELEASE

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A Christmas wonderland designed for the senses

It's not long now until Santa makes his annual visit to the Southern Centre's Multi Sensory Experience.

'Santa's Grotto' is a sensory wonderland for children and adults alike, of all ages and abilities, to explore what is unique to this part of the world – an environment in which your senses truly come alive.

The Southern Centre at QEII Park each year hosts Santa's Grotto, providing a fantastic opportunity for everyone to come along and find out what the Multi Sensory Experience is all about.

Visitors will be able to stimulate their senses on a magical journey to visit Santa in his Grotto, where interactive equipment, innovative lighting, rhythmic sounds and nose tingling scents are made even more exciting thanks to the festive theme of Christmas.

The centre will be fully transformed into a magical Christmas wonderland. Visitors will be able to tour the centre, interact with all of the equipment and, of course, meet Santa and leave with a treat!

The array of sensory experiences on offer will ensure that all visitors will enjoy a truly unique experience.

The Southern Centre is the first of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere and is controlled by a unique computerised system. It's award-winning innovative system promotes using one's senses and makes it a special treat for Christmas, not to mention all year-round.

Participants of all abilities are encouraged to explore, develop their imagination and creativity, and to simply have fun in an environment that heightens their senses.

Santa's Grotto will be open from Monday 15 December until Saturday 20 December 2008, for two hours each day from 1pm. To find Santa in his Grotto, simply follow the trail from the main pool reception at QEII Park Leisure Centre.

And the best part is it's only \$2 per person and bookings aren't required. Don't miss out on such a wonderful pre-Christmas experience!

What: Santa's Grotto, Multi Sensory Experience

When: Monday 15 December – Saturday 20 December 2008, 1 – 3pm

Where: Southern Centre, QEII Park, Travis Road, New Brighton

For more information about Santa's Grotto and/or the Multi Sensory Experience contact the Southern Centre on 941 7119.