

---

## **BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS PROGRAM INSPIRES PARTICIPATION IN THE REBEL SPORT CITY TO SURF FOR ACTIV**

A special pair of friends from the Big Brothers Big Sisters program run exclusively by YMCA Perth will be participating in the 2010 Rebel Sport City to Surf for Activ. Program ambassadors Anna, 14 from Melville, and Aine, 40 from Melville, are first time participants in the iconic event that brings together close to 40,000 members of the Western Australian community.

Big Brothers Big Sister is the leading youth mentoring program in Australia running in Perth since 2003. The program matches vulnerable young people aged from 7 to 17, from disadvantage backgrounds, with a caring adult volunteer who can be both a positive role model and a supportive friend.

Anna and Aine were matched by the Big Brothers Big Sisters program almost 12 months ago as Anna and her family experience social and economic disadvantage. Lee-Anne Ashley, Business Development Manager of Youth and Community Services at YMCA Perth said "The pair's journey toward fitness has mirrored the development of their friendship. Aine has used goal setting in the fitness arena to impart important life skills to Anna".

The focus of Aine's mentoring role to Anna is that she can overcome any unfavourable circumstances to achieve her potential. The pair's friendship will have a life-changing and lasting impact, and their goal is to help raise funds for more young people in Perth in order to be able to share their experience.

The program is incredibly popular with volunteers and with young people. Research has shown that young people who participate in the program do better at school, are more confident and outgoing and have a positive outlook for the future.

YMCA Perth is committed to their involvement in the 2010 Rebel Sport City to Surf for Activ and are looking to increase awareness and raise much needed funds for their organisation with a target of \$25,000.

Current infrastructure for the program is at capacity – such that there are over 100 people on the waiting list. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Perth urgently needs funding to increase staffing and to open the program to more participants.

YMCA Perth sees the event as an opportunity to unite a huge corporate team into action. "We have invited our entire organisation from our Board and Council Governors, through our executive management team, staff and our clients through our recreation, childcare and training departments to participate in the 2010 Rebel Sport City to Surf for Activ or donate to our cause" stated Lee-Anne.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Perth are currently sitting in number 2 for the top team fundraisers and are looking to take over the top spot.

If you would like to donate to the Big Brothers Big Sisters fundraising page please go to [http://www.everydayhero.com.au/ymca\\_perth\\_big\\_brothers\\_big\\_sisters](http://www.everydayhero.com.au/ymca_perth_big_brothers_big_sisters) or if you would like to learn more about the Big Brothers Big Sisters program please visit <http://www.ymcaperth.org.au/Youth-Services/Big-Brothers-Big-Sisters.aspx>

The Rebel Sport City to Surf for Activ will be held on Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup> 2010 and consists of the Chevron Marathon, Westpac Half Marathon, Channel Nine 12km Run, Appealathon 12km Walk, Westpac 11km Wheelchair and the Nissan 4km Walk/Run.

Registration links and further information on Rebel Sport City to Surf for Activ is available at [www.perthcitytosurf.com](http://www.perthcitytosurf.com).

---

Website: [www.perthcitytosurf.com](http://www.perthcitytosurf.com)