

19 December 2016

## A roaring toy drive spreads cheer

This Christmas will be a little bit brighter for children at Liverpool Hospital thanks to a surprise visit from NRL Wests Tigers players.

Led by Westfield Liverpool's very own Father Christmas, NRL players Michael Chee Kam, Matt Ballin, Josh Aloiai, Justin Hunt and Tim Grant will deliver a rucksack full of toys to the kids in the paediatric ward.

Liverpool Hospital General Manager Robynne Cooke extended a special thank you to the West Tigers and Westfield Liverpool for their upcoming visit and said the Hospital has always enjoyed great support from the community.

"We want to make the holidays extra special for all children in the hospital who can't be at home for Christmas," Ms Cooke said.

"Many children will spend the lead up to Christmas in hospital which can be tough on families, so it's great for them to know they are not forgotten.

"We appreciate how thoughtful and compassionate the community has been and the consideration they've shown for our little ones in hospital.

"We are grateful that West Tigers players took time out of their busy training schedule to spread Christmas cheer throughout our hospital.

"Santa deserves a special thank you for taking a break from Westfield Liverpool to deliver both presents and a special Christmas message to children staying with us," she said

With posters and presents packed away for the upcoming visit, Wests Tigers' CEO Justin Pascoe said the players are always happy to give back to the community.

"I'm a dad myself and I can't imagine how tough it would be to have your child spending Christmas in hospital," Mr Pascoe said.

"Our players are always willing to go the extra distance and make a positive difference in people's lives so we hope their presence and presents donated by the community will help bring many smiles this Christmas," he said

### **PHOTO OPPORTUNITY**

**WHAT:** Wests Tigers players Michael Chee Kam, Matt Ballin, Josh Aloiai, Justin Hunt and Tim Grant will support children spending the festive season in Liverpool Hospital by handing out toys from the Liverpool Hospital Christmas Toy Drive.

**WHEN:** Monday 19 December at 3pm in the Paediatric Ward at Liverpool Hospital.