



MEDIA RELEASE

RESULTS International (Australia)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Clarke Family from Mona Vale takes the pledge to live on \$2 a day

This May the Clarke family, who are members of the Mona Vale branch of anti-poverty action group RESULTS International (Australia), are going to extraordinary lengths to raise awareness and money to fight extreme poverty. They have pledged to live on just \$2 a day for a week.

They will join thousands of other Australians, including 2011 Australian of the Year Simon McKeon, taking part in the anti-poverty campaign *Live Below the Line*.

The Clarke family of four, including Matthew in Year 11 at St Augustine's College in Brookvale and his sister Tess in Year 7 at Brigidine in St Ives, will have just \$2 a day each- the equivalent of the International Extreme Poverty line with which to buy all their food and drink for five days. RESULTS and the Clarks say the group are taking this challenge to raise awareness of the challenges faced by people living in extreme poverty, who have just this tiny amount to cover all their needs.

"It can be really hard to get your head around an issue like extreme poverty", says mum, Christine Clarke. "This campaign is really important, because it gives us an insight into the lack of choice, and the daily challenges faced by people trapped in the cycle of extreme poverty."

"Our usual reaction would be that \$2 would go a lot further overseas than it does here- so we were really shocked to learn that living in extreme poverty is the equivalent of living on \$2 Australian dollars in *Australia buying Australian goods*"

The Clarke family haven't done their shopping just yet, but they plan to eat a lot of rice, lentils, chickpeas and veggies in season. "It's going to be hard to buy much food with just \$2 a day." says Christine. "But we are up for the challenge, and I'm excited that during the challenge week we will not only be able to raise awareness about a really important issue, but also raise money to help fight extreme poverty"

The Clarks, as part of the RESULTS team, will join thousands of other Australians getting on board with the home grown campaign. "We launched the campaign for the first time last August," says Live Below the Line Campaign Co-Director Renee Carr, "and over 2000 Australians participated, raising more than half a million dollars for life-changing education projects. This year, we're launching the campaign in the US and UK for the first time, and this number is growing- with almost ten thousand people expected to take part across the continents."

The Clarks children are also going to be supported by their peers and school community to get them through this week from Monday 16th to Friday 20th of May They are looking forward to the challenge week and urge other members of the local community to also get involved, by signing up to take part or donating in support of their team at www.livebelowtheline.org.au/RESULTSAustralia

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