MEDIA RELEASE

STANMORE YOUTH SELECTED AS UNICEF AUSTRALIA AMBASSADOR

TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2015: Nadia Homem, 15, of Stanmore, has been named among UNICEF Australia’s latest cohort of Young Ambassadors: an exciting voluntary role that gives young people from across Australia a platform to speak up for children’s rights.

UNICEF Australia Young Ambassadors will work to engage children and young people about child rights issues, gauge the views and interests of Australia’s young people and represent their views as youth spokespeople.

The Year 10 Burwood Girls High School student was selected as one of nine Young Ambassadors from around Australia, with an extraordinarily diverse range of experiences between them.

Nadia, who is an avid netball player and coach for an under-10s team, is passionate about child rights.
“I wanted to raise awareness about the children whose rights weren’t being heard, make sure they had access to their rights and feel like their rights were being fulfilled in as many aspects as we could,” Nadia said.

“I’ve also seen first-hand the effects of poverty when I went to Thailand and I am really passionate about making sure that children are feeling empowered and feel like their voices are being heard and it is really important that their voices are being heard,” she said.

Over the course of their 12-month appointment, UNICEF Australia Young Ambassadors will work together to consult with other young people around the country and hear young people’s views on what affects them.

The Young Ambassadors will also have the opportunity to share their findings on key issues with Parliamentarians and other decisionmakers, in order to address the rights of children both in Australia and around the world.

UNICEF Australia CEO Norman Gillespie said the new cohort of Young Ambassadors was the epitome of children and young people’s right to participation.

“It is a pleasure to welcome these nine extraordinary young people into the role of UNICEF Australia Young Ambassadors. They bring an incredible range of life experiences to their role, from around Australia and the world,” Dr Gillespie said.

“I look forward to working with them over the next 12 months while they work with young people around the country to seek their opinions on matters of importance to them.

“The right of children and young people to participate and have a voice in decisions which impact on them is enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Young Ambassadors are an embodiment of that.”

Aged between 15 and 24, the UNICEF Australia Young Ambassadors are already deeply involved in their own communities around Australia and are looking forward to working with UNICEF Australia to improve children’s access to their rights in the year ahead.

To find out more about the UNICEF Australia Young Ambassadors or UNICEF Australia visit www.unicef.org.au or www.facebook.com/unicefaustralia

ABOUT UNICEF
UNICEF promotes the rights and wellbeing of every child, in everything it does. Together with its partners, UNICEF works in 190 countries and territories to translate that commitment into practical action, focusing special effort on reaching the most vulnerable and excluded children, to the benefit of every child. In Australia, UNICEF works with government and advocate bodies to defend children’s rights and support international development programs. UNICEF is funded entirely by the voluntary contributions of individuals, businesses, foundations and governments.

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