**MEDIA RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

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**DINNER IN THE DARK AN**

**‘EXPERIENCE IN EMPATHY’**

South Australians will be forgiven if they forget their table manners when ‘Dinner in the Dark’, supporting Can:Do 4Kids and Deaf Can:Do, returns this year on Friday 26 June at the Adelaide Festival Centre.

Can:Do Hearing Audiologist Heidi Limareff said by suppressing the dominant sense of sight, ‘Dinner in the Dark’ offers diners a truly unique food and wine experience.

“Dinner in the Dark gives everyone the chance to step outside their comfort zones as they explore four-courses of the most mouth-watering food and wine SA has to offer while completely blindfolded,” Ms Limareff said.

“When you don’t have your eyesight to perform simple tasks like eating, you start to value your other senses even more. Your perspective will be broadened and sensations of touch, smell and taste become heightened - it’s a rare and incredibly memorable experience.

“People will be forced to find new ways of navigating their way around their dinner plates and will experience in one night what people who are blind, vision impaired, deaf or hearing impaired live with every day.”

Can:Do Group General Manager Rebecca Young said dining in the dark fundraisers were well established overseas and South Australians were now able to take part in this “experience in empathy.”

“Guests will develop an understanding of the challenges faced every day by people who are blind or vision impaired, while enjoying a sensational evening of fantastic food and wine,” Ms Young said.

“Last year’s event raised almost $40,000 to support the amazing work that our Occupational Therapy team do, teaching hundreds of South Australian kids with sensory impairments how to navigate the world around them.

“Indeed these kids could probably teach our diners a thing or two about how to eat when you can’t use your vision to guide you,” she said.

Adelaide Hills Wine Region is proud to partner the event again this year with each table hosted by a winemaker, who will help diners through the sensory experience.

Howard Vineyard Winemaker Tom Northcott said, ‘Dinner in the Dark’ is a chance for foodies and wine lovers to really focus on flavour.

“Wine judges often undertake blind tastings so that they are not influenced by labels or varieties or brands,” Mr Northcott said.

“This will give people a chance to close their eyes, open their minds and let their taste buds take them on a journey through the Adelaide Hills Wine Region,” he said.

“It’s a great way to really understand the bouquet and structure of wines and how they match with food.”

As last year’s event sold out quickly Rebecca is encouraging early bookings, to reserve your seat at Adelaide’s most exclusive dining experience.

For more information, visit [dinnerinthedark.net.au](http://dinnerinthedark.net.au) today.

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