

## The 2010 Dreamcatcher Program

**The Dreamfit Foundation operates annual programs collaborating with industry, academia, government and the community with the common goal of fulfilling dreams and overcoming the challenges and frustrations of people with disabilities.**

In 2009, Dreamfit ran its first Dreamcatcher engineering competition with over 250 university students competing against each other to design the best solution for nine year old Perth Boy, Josiah Kappert, who's Dream was to ride a bicycle. This wasn't possible with a conventional bicycle as Josiah was born with no arms. Through the competition, Josiah was able to test not one, but six custom built bicycles, from which he chose his favourite to keep.

***The competition was an incredible success for all involved, so in 2010 we are stepping it up a notch with three competitions.***



### The Dreamcatcher Program

Disability organisations nominate the Dreams of potential candidates to participate in the competition and receive a custom engineered solution to help fulfil a Dream that cannot be addressed through existing solutions. Three projects are selected for University of Western Australia's (UWA) second year engineering students to work with Edith Cowan University's (ECU) Occupational Therapist teams to design concepts assisting the lucky recipients.

Four design groups for each project (twelve groups in total) are then selected to build their concepts with the assistance and mentoring of industry partners. These twelve items are then presented to the three Dream recipients at the end of 2010, where each recipient will select their favourite design from the four options.

A celebration of the year's projects and the announcement of award winning designs will be made on the International Day of People with a Disability on December 3, 2010.

### Developing Professionals of the Future

#### **Engineering**

As part of their academic requirements, all UWA engineering students are required to perform project work as well as complete work experience. Most students choose to work on academic based projects provided by the University and complete their work experience as paid vacation work. Dreamfit student engineers instead have the opportunity to work in a formal setting whilst giving back to the community and volunteer time to help people living with disabilities

The Dreamfit Foundation supports nominated student teams and matches them with mentors from the engineering industry. The students gain valuable, real-world experience whilst employers get the opportunity to build relationships with the best and brightest of UWA's engineering students, well before they graduate.

#### **Occupational Therapy**

Occupational Therapy students from ECU assist UWA's engineering students in understanding the specific requirements of the Dream recipient and tailoring their designs to meet these needs. This work experience allows students to share their knowledge and assists in the development of working relationships between disciplines.

#### **Communications, Media & Events**

The 'Dreamcatcher 2010 Competition' allows ECU's communications and media students to gain valuable project based experience. Students are able to immerse themselves in the workplace environment and create innovative campaigns to increase awareness and exposure of the Dreamcatcher projects and supporting industry partners.

### Industry Sponsors

Industry sponsors provide vital funding and mentoring to projects, which assists in steering the teams towards their goals of turning recipients Dreams into Reality!

Funding received from industry sponsors assists to cover costs associated with the project development, project coordination, Dreamplex facilities, marketing activities, events and prizes.