

# MEDIA RELEASE



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## TOWNSVILLE FAMILIES CASH IN ON NORTH'S BIGGEST EVENT

Townsville families are signing up to open their doors to visiting V8 Supercars supporters and play their part in North Queensland's biggest ever event next July.

Over 40 home owners have signed up to be part of the official Townsville Home Stay Program, which will see them give up their homes or rooms in their homes in exchange for some considerable pocket money during the inaugural Townsville 400.

Townsville couple Tracey and Brendan Lew, and their three children, will vacate their Mysterton home to make way for racing fans.

The Lews will temporarily move into their beach house just north of Townsville and take advantage of the last few days of the school holidays.

Mr Lew, who is originally from Bathurst, is familiar with the successful home stay model used every year for the Supercheap Auto Bathurst 1000.

"I have family in Bathurst and they participate in the home stay down there every year," Mr Lew said.

"They usually move in with their neighbours and have the same people stay in their homes each year.

"When we heard about the Townsville Home Stay we thought, why not?"

"If it pays the rates or is enough for a family holiday for us then that's great."

The Townsville Home Stay Program, run by Barrier Reef Dive Cruise and Travel, has a growing list of potential tenants looking to secure accommodation for the event, with many requests coming from the corporate sector.

Home Stay Co-ordinator Maria Chippendale said the response so far from Townsville home owners had been positive, but many more homes were needed to meet the demand.

"We are looking for more local families like the Lews to be a part of the program," Ms Chippendale said.

"I have met with dozens of families across Townsville who plan to take a holiday or move in with friends during the event in July.

"These families are excited about the opportunity to play their part in this huge event for Townsville and earning some considerable pocket money while doing so.

"In the current climate, this offers a great opportunity to get some of the bills paid, or to head away for a few nights' paid holiday."

Ms Chippendale said homes with about four bedrooms could fetch up to \$800 per night.

"You can either hire out your home and move out, or become a home host where guests stay in your rooms similar to a bed and breakfast situation," she said.

"If you have any questions about how the program works and the assurances that are in place, please don't hesitate to contact us on the home stay hotline, 4772 5881."

There are written guarantees that residents' homes will be returned as they were left.

To more information call the Townsville Home Stay Hotline on 4772 5881.

The inaugural V8 Supercars Townsville 400 is on July 10-12 next year (2009).

Visit [www.v8supercarevents.com.au](http://www.v8supercarevents.com.au) to find out more about the Townsville 400.

**For Further Information:**

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**Notes to editors**

Under the Townsville Home Stay Program landlords will:

- have the option to vacate their home and hire out the entire property, or become a host and rent out rooms in the property
- have the potential to earn from a minimum of \$230 per night for a home hire and from \$73 per person per night as a home host
- have the final say over who stays at the property
- be responsible for their own insurances on the property
- have a written tenancy agreement to protect the interests of both parties, including that the hirer leaves the property as they found it