



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**GOLD COAST – MONDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2007** – Variety Queensland's CEO Linda Graham today announced that the Australian Timeshare and Holiday Ownership Council (ATHOC), has provided the much needed funds of \$12,000 to refurbish a state of the art "Snoezelen Room" at Mudgeeraba State Special School on Queensland's Gold Coast.

The official launch of the long awaited refurbished Snoezelen Room will be made during a full school assembly at Mudgeeraba State Special School from 9.15am on Monday 3 December.

Laura Younger, General Manager for ATHOC confirmed the funds have been provided from major fundraising activities by Timeshare Industry member companies (such as Accor Premiere Vacation Club, Wyndham Vacation Resorts, RCI, Classic Holidays) at an annual Charity golf day in June.

Laura said, "The intention of the Snoezelen Room is to provide a stimulating and safe environment for students with sensory deficits and intellectual impairment. Students use the Snoezelen Room to explore and interact with light, sound, texture, smells, movements and tasters for the purpose of leisure, relaxation and enhancement of senses. The Room features bubble tubes, acrylic mirrors and a musical floor. ATHOC is pleased to provide this amazing technology and hopefully it will be enjoyed by special needs children in years to come. Last year's ATHOC Golf Day funds paid for a special Variety Liberty Swing that is situated in playground at the Cascade Gardens at Broadbeach", she added.

As the students who attend Mudgeeraba Special School are diagnosed with an intellectual impairment and may be diagnosed with vision, physical or hearing impairment, many students aged 5 to 18 years exhibit deficits in processing information related to their senses. The Snoezelen Room enables teachers to support students who require additional sensory experiences and implement individualized programs to enhance and optimise learning outcomes.

Principal of Mudgeeraba Special School, Ms Colleen Hope and Head of Curriculum Ms Nicky Belous wrote to Variety Queensland seeking financial assistance for equipment required for the Snoezelen Room and was delighted to receive a surprise phone call to advise that ATHOC, a corporate sponsor of Variety, would fully fund the room as a community project.

Colleen said, “Children will enjoy hours of fun discovering and exploring materials and the sounds of our tremendous Snoezelen Room and get pleasure from social interaction amongst their peers. We are absolutely thrilled to know ATHOC raised so much money at their golf day to fund our special Room and we sincerely thank every single person involved in making this happen”.

**ENDS /**

**Media is invited to join the official launch of the Snoezelen Room at School Assembly, 9.15am Monday 3 December at Mudgeeraba State Special School, School Road, Mudgeeraba.**

**The children will then enjoy and demonstrate the special attributes of the room.**

For more information contact Laura Younger – General Manager ATHOC on 07)55742622 or [laura.younger@athoc.com.au](mailto:laura.younger@athoc.com.au)