

## CASE STUDY

### 'FREEDOM WHEELS' BIKE PROGRAM

Under the 'Freedom Wheels' program customised bikes enable children with disabilities to experience the fun and independence of riding. Freedom Wheels is a joint initiative of Technical Aid to the Disabled NSW (TADNSW) and Amway.

According to Ramon Ortiz, Freedom Wheels Service Development Manager, 'bike-riding offers children with disabilities and their families an experience that they haven't had before. It's great to see the excitement of a child cycling for the first time, learning new skills and having fun on a bike.'

With the help of a skilled and innovative team of therapists, engineers and volunteers at TADNSW, Freedom Wheels modify a bicycle to meet the needs of each child. Freedom Wheels bikes are suited to children's age, height, weight, type of disability, and physical and

cognitive abilities. Modifications include advanced training wheels for lateral stability, postural and footcup supports, modified gloves and custom-made handlebars.

The Freedom Wheels program is open to any child with a disability for whom bike riding is a suitable activity. Over 250 Freedom Wheel bikes have been delivered all over NSW since the program started in 2006, and organisers aim to produce 500 or more bikes a year nationwide in the future.



Christian, who has Global Development Delay, tries out his own new Freedom Wheels bike, watched by mum Richelle and big brother Dominic.