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Riding high after bike giveaway

WHAT has 1600 wheels, 800 handlebars and is putting smiles on the faces of children throughout the Peel region?

Variety, the WA Children's Charity of Western Australia, Action International and the Westaus Crisis and Welfare Service is giving away 800 bikes and helmets.

The initiative was launched last week at the Mandurah Performing Arts Centre.

The bikes were donated by Action International as part of the Action International "Variety Bikes 4 Kids" program.

Olympic cyclist and Australian women's cycling team member Sara Carrigan was at the launch.

"While it may seem a simple enough gesture, the gift of these bikes has the capacity to really alter youngsters' lives and lift their spirits," Ms Carrigan said.

"It can be the catalyst to inspire confidence and a reason to set goals and aim high."

Students from local schools took part in a colouring-in competition to win a bicycle.

Principals from each school judged the entries.

Variety WA executive director Alison Salmond said the program was born out of a strong desire to give children something of their own, particularly when their families might not be able to do so.



Albert Rogers from Westcare, Alison Salmond from Variety WA, Olympic cyclist Sara Carrigan and Pinjarra Primary School student Hayley Baird.