



**January 14, 2008**

## **STATEMENT ON CONJOINED TWINS TRISHNA & KRISHNA**

In October 2007 Children First Foundation became aware of conjoined twin girls Trishna and Krishna, from Bangladesh, who were orphaned at birth in December 2006. It was decided the Foundation would bring the girls to Australia where specialists in Melbourne agreed to assess them.

Over the last two months, both the girls have undergone extensive tests at Melbourne's Royal Children's Hospital. The outcome of this assessment is that the twins could be separated. While the risks are quite significant, if they are not separated they will certainly die.

Over the next months, the girls will undergo preparation for the separation. The first procedure was carried out last week.

The precise costs for treatment are not available. However, it has been estimated costs will be \$250,000 for surgery and care in hospital and \$150,000 for the girls' ongoing care after they leave hospital.

Children First has secured pledges to cover the hospital costs, but is appealing to the community to help with the ongoing costs. These costs include home nursing, therapy, transport and accommodation.

Moira Kelly, AO (Executive Director) said today: "Trishna and Krishna are very normal, beautiful little girls who just happened to be joined at the back of the head. They have delightful individual personalities and beautiful little spirits. We believe they deserve a chance at life.

"We appeal for support to help the children as a humanitarian gesture in this unique case. We also hope all Victorians will keep these precious angels in their thoughts. These children have been brought to Melbourne Australia, which is lucky to have some of the world's best facilities and surgeons to perform this type of treatment. We have a wonderful opportunity to do something good."

Donations can be made through [www.childrenfirstfoundation.com.au](http://www.childrenfirstfoundation.com.au) or mailed to the Foundation at 66 Chapman Street, North Melbourne Vic 3051. Donations of \$2 and above are tax deductible.