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# Thousands run for a good cause

**Success:** More than 10,000 competitors turned up for the first HBF Run for a Reason yesterday, raising over \$200,000 for WA charities. The run is likely to become an annual event. **Reports, P9**

Picture: Sandra Jackson





# First HBF run proves a winner

**DANIEL HATCH**

More than 10,000 people took part in yesterday's first HBF Run for a Reason.

The event, presented by *The West Australian*, raised more than \$200,000 for six WA charities: the Cancer Council, Lifeline, the Heart Foundation, Arthritis WA, the Asthma Foundation and Diabetes WA.

Crowds gathered at the starting line at the WACA Ground before sunrise in preparation for the 8am start of both the 4.5km and 14km events.

Corporate teams and those running in support of family members and other charities were joined by radio announcer Howard Sattler, Attorney-General Christian Porter, Opposition Leader Eric

Ripper, Perth Deputy Lord Mayor John Tognolini and the Biggest Loser's Alison Braun.

First across the line in the shorter event was 19-year-old Sam McEntee, of Doubleview, who completed the 4.5km run in just under 13 minutes and 30 seconds, to raise funds for the Asthma Foundation.

Courtney Carter, 22, of Como, won the 14km event and the first woman to complete the 14km was Samantha Flanders, of Palmyra.

Though the winners were serious runners, the fun run was also about some serious fundraising — and 10-year-old Rachel Gower showed she was a champion fundraiser.

The Cottesloe girl raised \$810 for Diabetes WA by taking part in the 4.5km event.

"I want to make a difference

because I realised the numbers of diabetes sufferers have gone up," Rachel, who attends The Methodist Ladies College, said.

"I can run but there are some kids out there who can't, so I want them to have back their normal lives."

Mike Burton, of East Cannington, raised the most money, his \$8900 going to the Cancer Council.

A fitness instructor and fitness equipment technician, he said he raised the money by asking his clients and health clubs to donate. "I was totally surprised by people's generosity," he said.

HBF spokesman Andrew Walton said the company had committed to hosting Run for a Reason again next year and there was every prospect it could become an annual event.



And the winners are: Ten-year-olds Rachel Gower and Arabella Gunning at the finish line.

Pictures: Sharon Smith



And they're off ..



How far to go?



Easy rider: Runners at the Bell Tower point.

Picture: Bolidan Warchomij



Colourful: A team running to support mental health care in the community.



Sam McEntee



Courtney Carter



Celebrating: Kate Sugars and Leanne Callcott after the race.



Good reason: Alison Braun and her children at the finish line.

Picture: Sharon Smith



## Family do it for their dad

The Biggest Loser's Alison Braun and her family walked together in the 4.5km section and the reason was close to the family's heart.

The Brauns are raising funds for the suicide and depression prevention service Lifeline.

"Just over a year ago, I lost my husband to suicide so it's something that's very important to us," Mrs Braun said. "As a family, this is the first time we've come together to do something like this so to be honest it is a little bit

emotional for all of us. Not only did we lose their dad and my husband to suicide but his father also committed suicide, so they've lost a grandfather to suicide as well."

Mrs Braun had originally planned to take part in the 14km run but switched to the shorter event when her seven-year-old daughter Isabella asked if she could take part, too.

She was also joined on the walk by her 19-year-old son and her 11-year-old daughter.