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Huge turnout for charity run

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Record numbers of people flocked to the city yesterday to take part in the second annual HBF Run for a Reason.

Lycra-clad crowds lined up to take part in either a 4.5km or 14km race through the city to raise money for a raft of well-known charities.

A total of 13,766 people took part in this year's race, up from 10,459 last year, and the event raised \$322,506.45.

Organisers seemed to cope well with the massive crowds, despite one minor hiccup when two buses ferrying people to the race parked on the roadway racetrack.

They were moved with just a few seconds to spare before the starter's pistol was fired and the blue and white-shirted runners set off with the strains of Eye of the Tiger pumping from the sound

system.

A record in the 14km run was set by Sam Dobson, who clocked in at 45 minutes this year, beating last year's fastest time of 46 minutes and 12 seconds.

Mr Dobson, 25, said he had just moved to WA from New Zealand and thought the race was well planned and executed.

"It was fantastic," the surprisingly un-puffed sports shoe salesman said.

"I felt pretty good, but coming out of the tunnel my hamstring started feeling like it might go, but once I got over the hill it was fine."

Octogenarian Crystal Humphry also sauntered across the finish line with breath to spare, despite running much of the 4.5km course.

"I think it's good to be involved in something like this even when you

get to my age, it makes you live a bit rather than sitting on your bottom watching TV," she joked.

Peter Kennedy, the race's oldest participant at a well-preserved 91, admitted he was a little puffed after taking on the challenge with his daughter Louise, a sprightly 60.

"I think I was clocked for speeding," Mr Kennedy quipped.

This year's run was personal for Sam Ryan after she discovered her three-year-old son had an aggressive form of cancer.

A team of seven friends of Mrs Ryan ran in the 4.5km race this year and although she could not run this year, she said she was thankful that some of the money raised would go to the Cancer Council and be used for research to help children such as her son.

AT A GLANCE

13,766 walkers and joggers
7,544 from the northern suburbs
6,222 from the southern suburbs
Best 14km male: 45:00
 by Sam Dobson
Best 14km female: 50:57
 by Gina Grayson Cassey
Best 4km male: 11:38
 by Marc See
Best 4km female: 14:26
 by Hannah Castle
517 volunteers

\$322,506.45 raised