



**For immediate release**

24 January 2007

## **Australian Baptists pray for Heath Ledger's family**

Australian Baptists and the Baptist World Alliance are not associated with the Westboro "Baptist" Church in Kansas and reject the actions of members of that group in seeking to disrupt memorial services for the late Australian actor Heath Ledger, the President of the Baptist Union of Australia, Rev Dr Ross Clifford, said today.

The intention of Ms Shirley Phelps-Roper and other Westboro Baptist Church members to picket the memorial services was completely inappropriate, and their statements were increasingly extreme and counter-productive.

Dr Clifford joined Pastor Mark Wilson, Director of Ministries for Western Australian Baptists in saying that the thoughts and prayers of Australian Baptists were with Heath Ledger's family and friends in their grief and sadness at his tragic death.

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