Family support: Brody Johnston's sister Britnie and their parents Fiana and Richard helped raise money at a school sausage sizzle for his overseas adventure.

Picture: Chris Lane

Student off to space camp

By Eva Tejszerski

STUDENTS from Lucas Heights Community School showed their support for one of their friends at a fund-raiser recently.

Brody Johnston, 15, of Marrickville, was diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome when he was four.

Asperger's is an autism spectrum disorder that impairs social and communication skills, and affects the ability to comprehend body language and emotions.

Brody, a year 10 student, will go to Alabama Space Academy in the US on September 23 to experience simulated training activities that astronauts use.

Participants have their mental, physical and emotional abilities pushed to the limit through the interactive challenge.

The tour, which is offered to selected students by the Education Department, is coordinated by Metropolitan South West Science Teachers Association.

Brody will join 23 other students from years 9 to 11 on the space camp adventure, visiting other scientific facilities.

Community organisations also supported the school's fund-raiser.