

On the run for funds

By Priscilla Obeid

FINANCIAL planner James Francis put down his pen and picked up his sneakers to join thousands in a marathon for the Blackmores Sydney Running Festival last month.

He ran as part of the Can Too team for the Cure Cancer Australia Foundation.

"This is the first year I have been involved with Can Too, and it makes sense to add value to my fitness," Mr Francis said.

Though no stranger to long-distance running - having competed in triathlons and duathlons - this the first marathon for Mr Francis.

"I wanted to pursue the challenge, to take it to the next stage and do something I haven't done before," he said.

The 36-year-old Penrith runner said he hoped to run the 42-kilometre, cross-city course in less than 3½ hours and raise \$2000 for cancer research.

Mr Francis, who has also supported St Vincent de Paul and the Catholic Education Teacher's Winter Sleepout, said it is important to raise awareness about charities.

Since its inception in 2005, Can Too and Cure Cancer Australia have raised more than \$1 million for research and is now targeting its second million.



Legging it: James Francis ran his first marathon as part of the Blackmores Sydney Running Festival to raise funds for Cure Cancer Australia.

Picture: Gary Warrick