

Remote controlled cot rock

CRYING babies and sleep deprivation are something that Queensland inventor and father of three, Christopher Mitchell understands only too well.

This membership to the "all-nighters club" led him to invent the Lullabub – the world's first remote-controlled cot rocking device.

The Lullabub is an innovative product designed to calm and relax unsettled babies by gently rocking them to sleep in a harmonic rhythm, automatically and unassisted.

This heaven-sent solution has four relaxing motion-simulated settings, namely: mother's womb, mother's heartbeat, a drive in the car and a boat on the water.

Lullabub is quiet and easy to use, and suitable for newborns and babies up to 18 months old. In addition, the Lullabub is portable, making it ideal for travelling.

Mitchell hit upon the idea for the Lullabub while his wife was convalescing in hospital with post-natal depression, and he had taken on the role of carer.

"Early one morning, while rocking our baby in my arms to try and get her to sleep, the motor racing happened to be on TV," he said. "Through sheer tiredness, I put her on my knee and pretended to be driving a car. With the motion I created, my little girl fell asleep, and the idea for Lullabub was born."

The Lullabub works by supporting the cot on an independent spring-suspension system which sways in multi-directional movements of up, down, left, right, backward, forward and diagonally, imitating the gentle motion of a moving car.

The cot legs are placed in the four Lullabub decor designed modules which allow parents to use the remote control to rock the baby to sleep, or manually using just one finger. The module is powered similarly to a mobile phone and the plug pack converts home power to six volts to operate the unit.

The Lullabub has been designed to



accommodate a wide variety of cot sizes and weights, and can be used not only in the home but in child care centres, too, allowing staff to attend to the other babies and their needs.

All electronics contained within the Lullabub are protected from being accessed by children outside the cot and the Lullabub also prevents a cot from being rocked in excess of five degrees, which is half of the maximum 10 degrees allowable by the Australian Standards.

The Lullabub recently won an Australian Standards Design Award 2006, which was adjudicated by a large panel of international judges. Prior to being released to the public the

Lullabub was trialled by several parents and the results were so successful that news of the Lullabub spread like wildfire, not just nation-wide but around the world. Mitchell even received a call from a Queensland Koala Sanctuary.

"They wanted to know whether we had something that would work for koalas – apparently baby koalas have similar sleep problems to human babies," he said.

In designing the Lullabub, Mitchell took into consideration the many issues caused by sleep deprivation such as stress which can lead to anger and frustration when a baby won't stop crying. Some parents even resort to shaking the

WIN a Lullabub



IF you're a new mum or dad who averages zilch sleep at night because bub just won't settle here is fantastic news for you.

Babyhugs, the innovative company behind Lullabub is offering five Domain Your Home readers a chance to win a Lullabub valued at \$249 each. All you have to do is clearly write your name, address and telephone number on the back of an envelope and mail it to Amber De Nardi, Editor Domain Your Home, level 1 Fairfax House, 33 Moore Street Liverpool NSW 2170.

All entries need to be in by December 8.

The first five names to be drawn will be contacted and one of the five winners will also be invited to tell DYH about how you think Lullabub will help with your particular baby blues.

baby, which is known as Shaken Baby Syndrome, in the misguided belief it will stop the baby from crying.

Sleep deprivation can also lead to depression, marriage break ups and car crashes.

Researchers from the University of New South Wales said that sleep deprivation can seriously affect the brain's ability to think clearly and the body's ability to react normally, and plays a part in two out of three road accidents.

The Lullabub is available in most independent baby shops and retails for \$249.

Details: For more information, visit www.lullabub.com