

MEDIA RELEASE

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Cystic Fibrosis Queensland celebrates its Diamond Jubilee

Cystic Fibrosis Queensland is celebrating its diamond jubilee, 60 years of providing support, services and hope to those fighting cystic fibrosis.

Cystic fibrosis is the most common, life-shortening genetic chronic illness in Australia. It attacks the lungs, airway passages and pancreas – slowly shutting down the organs.

One Australian child is born with cystic fibrosis every week. There is no cure.

Cystic Fibrosis Queensland CEO Petrina Fraccaro said cystic fibrosis now affects the lives of more adults and children than ever before.

“In the last 10 years, life expectancy for cystic fibrosis sufferers has been extended from 18 years to just short of 40 years.

“However, that means that the number of people requiring our help, both today and projected in the future has increased,” Ms Fraccaro said.

“Our mission is *lives unaffected by cystic fibrosis* and we assist everyone affected by cystic fibrosis to live fuller, healthier lives.”

Today, Cystic Fibrosis Queensland supports more 1,000 families compared to 730 families 10 years ago.

Noah Clenton, a ten-year-old student at Mango Hill State School was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis at birth.

Noah’s mum, Cindy Clenton said the first year was the hardest, and having to spend many days and nights in hospital with their new baby meant she was unable to return to work for much longer than she’d initially planned.

“Noah’s diagnosis had a huge impact on our lives, particularly when he was a baby. It was physical, emotionally and financially draining,” Ms Clenton said.

“We lost a lot of friends, because we just didn’t have the time to be able to spend with them. It was also tough on our older son, who was 5 at the time, because we had to commit so much time and energy to Noah in those early years.

“We are fortunate that Noah now attends a great school, and his teacher for the last two years has a husband with cystic fibrosis, so she completely understands Noah’s situation.

Ms Clenton said she and her family are also very grateful for the support of Cystic Fibrosis Queensland.

“I’ve made some lifelong friends through Cystic Fibrosis Queensland with other cystic fibrosis mums. They’ve also given us financial support through physical activity subsidies, hospital parking subsidies and we’ve been given a nebuliser, which helps us manage Noah’s condition at home,” she said.

Noah’s school is participating in the Bounce 2 Breathe fundraiser which raises funds through trampolining so that Cystic Fibrosis Queensland can continue its crucial work.

Ms Fraccaro said the organisation is one of Queensland’s largest and oldest charities supporting people living with chronic illness.

“We advocate for the entire cystic fibrosis community and seek to raise much needed awareness of this debilitating condition.

“The fundraising we undertake accounts for 90 percent of our revenue needs to deliver these programs, so we rely heavily on support from the community.”

To celebrate Cystic Fibrosis Queensland’s diamond jubilee, a perpetuity account is being established to secure the long-term future of the organisation. 60 founding members are being sort to donate \$1,000 each to establish a \$60,000 perpetuity account.

Diamond Jubilee Donors Club members will be announced and thanked for their vital contribution to the long-term future of Cystic Fibrosis Queensland at the Diamond Jubilee Cocktail Party in July as well as invited to our Patron event and listed in the annual report, on the website and name placed on the Diamond Jubilee Donors Club plaque.

If you would like to donate to Cystic Fibrosis Queensland visit
<https://www.cysticfibrosis.org.au/qld/donate>

About Cystic Fibrosis Queensland

Cystic Fibrosis Queensland is the peak community not for profit charity working with and for the increasing number of people living with cystic fibrosis who attend a Queensland Health Clinic for treatment. The charity funds research, advocates on the behalf of and delivers support and service programs to people and their families with cystic fibrosis. 90% of our income relies on fundraising.

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