

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.

Ipswich local, Ashton Greaves, was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis at birth and appreciates the support Cystic Fibrosis Queensland has provided her and her brother in recent years.

“My older brother and I both have cystic fibrosis – he was born with a blocked bowel which led to his diagnosis, so when I was born, they tested for it straight away,” Ms Greaves said.

“When we were younger, having cystic fibrosis didn’t really affect us leading fairly normal lives, but now I’m older it is definitely at the forefront of mind and I am much more aware of my health.

“About five years ago I started accessing support from Cystic Fibrosis Queensland – even in that short period of time they have made a huge difference in my life.”

Ms Greaves received a nebuliser in 2019 from Cystic Fibrosis Queensland allowing her to cut down treatment time and utilises parking and physical activity subsidies.



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“Without the support from Cystic Fibrosis Queensland my health could deteriorate so quickly – impacting my ability to work full-time and my lifestyle,” she said.

“Even the smallest donation goes a long way in supporting people, like my brother and I , with cystic fibrosis – I am so grateful for the help they provide.”

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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