

Hello,

I've written a brief summary of what we are trying to do below.

My name is Jeremy McKnight, our 19 year old daughter passed away in March 2016 after a 2 year battle with Leukaemia. Shannon was able to be at home with us in the end due to outstanding Palliative Care support we received from Dr Hepper and Dr O'Neill from the Creswick Medical Centre.

As we live between Maryborough and Talbot we found out that Palliative care coverage was limited and basically available only during business hours which concerned us greatly should something happen after hours or weekends. Unfortunately Shannon had a bleed into her spine which was agony for her but luckily Dr Hepper came to see Shannon and gave her medications to alleviate the pain. Dr Hepper left us with a pack with preventative medications to deal with emergency symptom control which was fantastic as during the next 4 days Shannon had other issues which we were able to ease with the use of the medications in the pack.

Palliative care funding is very limited, the people working within this industry do a wonderful job but are stretched very thinly. This means that unfortunately many people requiring palliative care services are unable to receive the help they require. Having these packs enables families to have their loved ones at home and help them themselves should something happen.

These packs contain the basic medications, syringes and equipment along with detailed instructions upon usage. These packs are essential to patients and families at home to quickly limit the amount of pain and anxiety that many palliative care patients have, especially after hours when support services are extremely limited.

The packs are \$470 each and I can provide details of the contents of the packs, Dr's Hepper and O'Neill's contact details and account details showing all necessary contribution information.

The need for these packs is urgent as in the Creswick area alone in 2013–2014, 72 people passed away, meaning that there are families in need now. I can only speak from experience what it meant to us to have our baby at home with us for her last days, it was Shannon's last wish to be home with us and we were able to make this happen relatively painlessly due to this pack and due to the support from some wonderful medical professionals.

I am speaking to many organisations within the area asking for any help they may be able to offer in relation to donations, items donated to be raffled or any other suggestion they could offer. I can help with anything that may help us raise these funds. The money raised is given to Ballarat Hospice care Inc. which is a charitable institution. They then organise for the packs to be made up.

I appreciate the fact that there are many deserving charities, organisations and people in need in other areas also, as a father I can only try to help other families in similar situations to the one that we have just experienced.

I appreciate your time and look forward to hopefully hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Jeremy McKnight

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