

Media Release

TASSIE KIDS WITH TYPE 1 DIABETES SUPPORT PROGRAM LAUNCH

By Guy Barnett, Ambassador for Diabetes Australia

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Hundreds of young Tasmanians, including in rural areas, are set to benefit from an innovative new program for children and families affected by type 1 diabetes.

With over 500 young people aged under 25 diagnosed with type 1 diabetes, Diabetes Tasmania has launched the Type One Youth Support (TOYS) program. This innovative program, which complements the clinical care within the hospitals, aims to assist schools, families and children, from birth up to the age of 25, to manage an incurable and life-threatening disease.

The TOYS Program has five key elements – Youth Camps, Online Support, Information and Support for Families, Diabetes Friendly Schools and health promotion targeted at school age children.

Diabetes Australia Ambassador Guy Barnett, who lives with type 1 diabetes, says he is proud to be launching the TOYS program, which will benefit so many Tasmanian children.

“It’s not easy to live with a life-threatening condition as well as facing all the other challenges that come with growing. For many it causes an increased risk of depression and anxiety, but when managed diligently, diabetes need not hold you back,” said Mr Barnett.

“The Program will help children and families in rural Tasmania which is so important.

“I am particularly passionate about the Diabetes Friendly Schools aspect of TOYS which will help to ensure our Tassie kids and their families will have the network of support they deserve to stay well at school.”

Diabetes Tasmania has released to the public the TOYS prospectus during National Diabetes Week. The program will require \$275,000 to be raised over the next 3 years, with \$75,000 already raised.

To support the campaign and to donate to the TOYS program visit www.diabetestas.org.au or phone 1300 136 588.

**Attached: Photo of Jason McGimpsey, 8 years old who requires multiple daily injections with Guy Barnett, Ambassador Diabetes Australia who also has type 1 diabetes.*

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