

Spring into action! Walk to cure diabetes type 1

October 2013

Children and adults with type 1 diabetes need to have daily blood checks and medication to stay alive. On the 20th October in Busselton many families, including several from Child Side School, will join in the Walk to Cure Diabetes to help raise funds to continue researching this disease.

This event is being organised locally but will be one of many being held in over 30 cities and towns across Australia. The Walk to Cure Diabetes is an annual event run through Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Australia (JDRF), and this is the 20th year it has been run.

In March 2010 Rachel and Stuart Atkinson took their daughter Hailey to the doctors, they explained how “Hailey had simply not been herself so we wanted the doctor to do some blood tests to see if something like her iron levels were a bit off.” Within 24 hours she was rushed to Princess Margaret Hospital for Children because she was on the verge of going into a coma. Her sugar levels were ten times what they should have been”.

Knowledge of this disease is spreading, for example at Child Side School all of the children and families since 2010 have been made aware of Hailey’s condition and know what symptoms to watch out for and how to respond to these.

Type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune disease that lasts a lifetime. Currently 122,300 children and adults in Australia have this disease and the number grows each year. Since the Walk to Cure Diabetes began there have been many advances that have helped individuals with this disease, and their families manage their lives, but there is no cure yet.

A cure would be fantastic but in the meantime continuing to create greater awareness of this disease is a good start. If you would like to get involved in a Walk to Cure Diabetes or simply donate to this worthy cause visit: JDRF’s website at: www.jdrf.org.au/walk.

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Hailey Atkinson



Children from Child Side School involved in the Walk to Cure Diabetes

Back row (L-R): Ashley Scaffidi, Blaine Shervington, Aaron Shervington, Damien Tuyn, Caelen Hehir & Finn Baker
Front row (L-R): Jesse Tuyn, Elijah Hehir, Hailey Atkinson, Robin Tuyn, Jasmine Done & Matthew Done

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or visit our website: www.childsideschool.wa.edu.au