

Dear Dubbo West Preschool Community.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your donation/ purchasing of a beanie for the Mark Hughes Foundation, beanies for brain cancer. My name is Esther and this cause is one very close to my heart, If I can take a moment of your time I would like to share something with you.

I am a Mum of two children, Bridie aged 5 who attends the preschool and my son Billy 18 months old. With my husband's permission I would like to share his story.

18 months ago, my husband and I were your typical Australian family, we had just welcomed our second child into the world, my husband was the major breadwinner for our family working long hours round the clock to provide for us whilst I was on maternity leave. We were excited for our future and looking forward to watching our family grow.

Out of the blue, with no previous medical history, Scott experienced a severe seizure at his workplace. The seizure caused him to lose consciousness and he was unresponsive for a lengthy period of time. An MRI completed after the seizure showed two areas of concern in the brain.

Over the span of 9 months a series of MRI's and various tests were performed to determine what the masses were. All results were unfortunately inconclusive, so the only option left was to do a biopsy. The biopsy results came as a devastating blow for our family, Scott has Glioblastoma, stage 4 brain cancer.

Within days of receiving the news, Scott commenced a round of chemotherapy and then had brain surgery to remove as much of the cancer as possible without causing permanent paralysis.

Since the diagnosis, Scott has undergone 3 brain surgeries, 75 days of chemotherapy, 3 rounds of immunotherapy, 35 days of radiation and countless ambulance trips and hospitalisations.

Unfortunately, prognosis for those suffering with Glioblastoma is not positive and sadly these statistics have not changed in 30 years. Brain cancer desperately needs to be better funded and supported so more research can be carried out to save lives and find a much-needed cure.

It is my hope that by sharing our story, I can raise awareness of this hideous disease and maybe save a life. Early detection with any form of cancer is paramount. I would encourage you all to take your health seriously and give it the time it deserves. Prior to the seizure Scott doesn't recall having any signs or symptoms that would have indicated that something was wrong. Please take the time to look after yourself and the people that you love and care for.

Our lives will never be the same and most days there feels like this is a big dark cloud above us with so much uncertainty still to come. However, for the little people that look up to us every day, we must keep moving forward and do the best we can.

It is my other wish, to encourage you all to live your days with intent and purpose. Please don't live your lives waiting for the 'BIG' moments there is so much joy to be had in the small things, you can never really know what may be around the corner.

From my little family to yours, I thank you for your generosity.

Regards

Scott and Esther Behsman

