



Fight Cancer Foundation News



ACCOMMODATION
CENTRES



RESEARCH



YOUTH AND
EDUCATION

Charlie and Ellie's Story

Siblings Charlie and Ellie both have an extremely rare and potentially fatal immune deficiency. Charlie was diagnosed at 18 months old, Ellie was diagnosed while in the womb.

Their treatment was invasive and extremely challenging. They both received chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant. In total, they spent a combined 161 days in hospital isolation.

While they received treatment, Charlie and Ellie along with their parents Merryn and Tony spent 15 long months living 240km away from their home, family and friends.

That's when Fight Cancer Foundation stepped in, offering them a home away from home when they needed it most.

Almost two years later Charlie and Ellie are both doing well, but the family faces an uncertain future. Underlying health issues still exist for both children – Ellie is small for her age and Charlie has issues with his lungs which were damaged by his treatment.

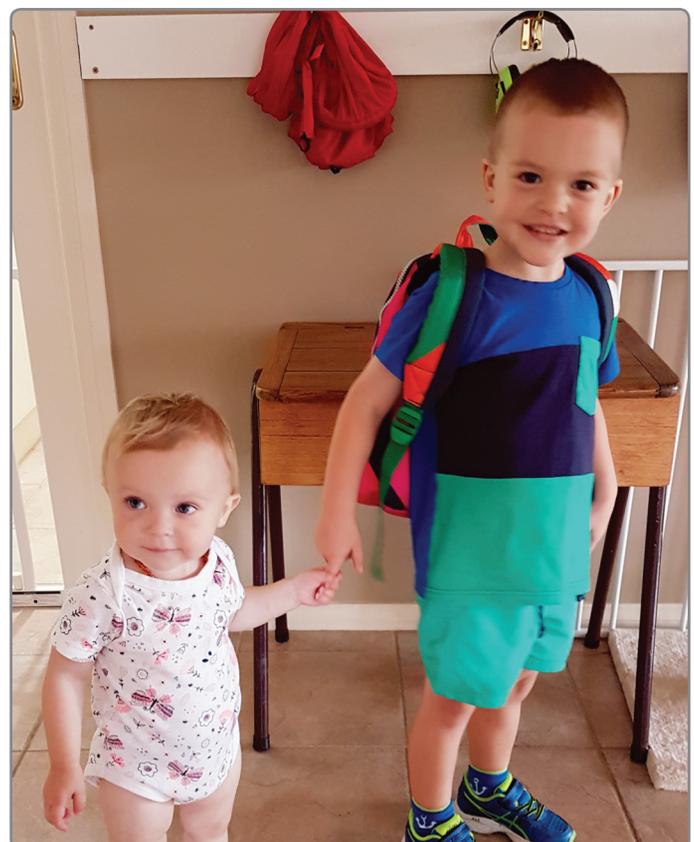
For now, Merryn and Tony are focusing on the positives. Charlie has just started Kinder and as Tony explains *“our days are sort of becoming more normal and we're just focusing on the normal kid things.”*

Merryn continues *“we've got two very special children who love each other and are full of life. We're very lucky to have had the treatment and to have accommodation nearby.”*

To make a much-needed donation to help families like Charlie and Ellie's during uncertain times please visit fightcancer.org.au.



Charlie (top) and Ellie during treatment.



Ellie and Charlie are doing well, with Charlie recently starting kinder.

Leading the fight against cancer



“Working with children with a cancer diagnosis is the most fulfilling job I have done. I enjoy the connection that can be made working in a one to one setting with a child. **I have the time to identify a learning need and address it on the spot.**”

Trisha Donovan, Back on Track Program Coordinator.

“The BMDI Cord Blood Bank has released 553 cord blood units; **456 of these have been used for cancer patients in Australia and around the world.** I love authorising a cord blood unit for release, knowing that each cord blood brings hope for a cure to someone.”

Dr Ngaire Elwood, Director, BMDI Cord Blood Bank.



“Hearing patients’ journeys and the exciting new therapies that are constantly being developed motivate us. **We are slowly but surely winning the fight.**”

Dr Rachel Koldej, PhD, Senior Scientist.

“I want to help a charity that works tirelessly to make a difference in an area that I am passionate about. This charity not only helps significantly in the area of research and treatment discovery, but also has a unique emphasis on wellbeing.”

Elizabeth Kaganov, Volunteer.



Visit fightcancer.org.au to learn more or make a life-saving donation.

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