

Cooma grandmother wins \$5k grant to help brain injured grandson

The dream of Cooma woman Robyn Went to help her three-year-old brain injured grandson from Canberra receive five months of conductive education therapy has come true thanks to a \$5,000 Sunsuper Dreams for a Better World grant.

Robyn submitted her dream for her grandson Zac, in the May round of the Sunsuper Dreams for a Better World competition, which helps people realise their dream for a better world by offering \$5,000 grants to Australian-based causes.

Robyn said she entered the Sunsuper Dreams competition to give Zac the opportunity to continue with the therapy he requires due to his brain injury.

“A month after his second birthday Zac acquired a brain injury in tragic circumstances, leaving him unable to walk, talk or undertake any basic motor skills, up until then he had reached all the appropriate milestones for a toddler,” said Robyn.

“Zac spent three months in hospital and was discharged from hospital with a poor prognosis. However his parents were determined to give him a chance and embarked on an intense and very expensive program of therapies which cost in excess of \$2,000 a month.

“Sadly, due to the lack of government resources, 90 per cent of Zac's therapy is self-funded so family and friends have gladly carried the costs. As Zac's mum cares for him full-time, she has been unable to return to work so this grant will take the pressure off the family.

“Zac currently has speech, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and chiropractic sessions along with swimming, early intervention classes, conductive education and just for a bit of fun he goes to Gymparoo with his baby brother Max.

“Zac's progress in the last 12 months has been truly amazing, he now commando crawls and sits unaided; he is starting to master the walker and he feeds himself, however his speech is yet to come. It is the intensity and frequency of the treatment that has brought him this far and the Sunsuper grant will pay for a further five months of conductive education therapy.”

The \$5,000 grant will go to Friends of Brain Injured Children ACT (FBIC) who will facilitate Zac's treatment.

Ends

Media enquiries: Rebecca Cassidy, Sunsuper, (07) 3333 7059 or 0402 246 851

Interview and photo opportunities: Robyn Went (from Cooma, NSW) and Jody Sliwka (from Canberra, ACT) is available for interview, photo and broadcast opportunities.

About Sunsuper's *Dreams for a better world* initiative:

Sunsuper's *Dreams for a better world* initiative is all about doing something positive for the community in a really meaningful way and giving individuals, groups and organisations the opportunity to help realise a dream for a better world.

Australian-based dreams are submitted through www.sunsuperdreams.com.au. Visitors to the site then vote for their favourite dream/s and the dream with the most votes at the end of each round of voting will be awarded a \$5,000 grant.