

Local woman wins \$5k to help young girl with serious brain injury

The dream of Paddington resident, Samantha Shumack, to help a 5-year old girl with a brain impairment receive a wheelchair lift for the family's vehicle has come true thanks to a \$5,000 SunsUPER Dreams for a Better World grant.

Ms Shumack has known Keira and her family for more than three years through her work with Variety Queensland, so when Keira's mother approached her about helping to find funding assistance for a wheelchair lift, she was glad to help.

"Keira's mum contacted me and asked me for help in finding funding to assist with the conversion of their vehicle so that Keira and her wheelchair could be transported safely to medical appointments and family outings," said Ms Shumack. "Knowing the hardships this family have had to endure, I jumped at the chance to try and assist them where possible.

"Keira is a bright and bubbly five year old girl with a brain impairment called Miller Deiker Syndrome which causes uncontrolled epilepsy.

"Like most five year olds, Keira would love nothing more than to be out and about discovering the joys of life; however at 23kgs it's becoming increasingly difficult for Keira's parents to physically lift her in and out of the car.

"I knew a wheelchair lift in the family vehicle would allow Keira to be safely transported to school and to the hospital, allowing her a much richer life and greater access to a world that is currently limited."

Ms Shumack entered the February round of the SunsUPER Dreams for a Better World competition, which aims to help Australians do something positive in the community and help realise their dream for a better world by offering \$5,000 grants each month to the dream with the most votes.

"The SunsUPER Dreams for a Better World competition allowed us to engage a completely different group of supporters and reach out to our pre-existing networks at Variety Queensland to help get votes for my dream to help Keira. Now, through the generosity of our followers and SunsUPER, Keira will be helped in the most amazing way.

"For Keira and her family, it means a very expensive piece of equipment is attainable and once received will have the most unimaginable, life-changing impact."

Ends

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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.