

TRACEY'S LEGACY

"Ronald McDonald House is a special place which you can't fully appreciate until you've experienced the supportive family environment" - Tracey Turner shares her experience

In June 1989 I was a scared 13-year-old, who after spending a week in my local Hospital in Bunbury – I was being transferred to Princess Margaret Hospital ("PMH") in Perth and initially, I thought this meant I had cancer!

I spent four weeks in PMH, it was two hundred kilometres from home which meant my family was split up. Mum stayed with me at the hospital while Dad and my brother drove up on weekends. It was stressful and expensive. There, I was diagnosed with "Systemic Lupus," a chronic autoimmune disorder.

In January 1991, my Specialist suggested a new treatment, involving twice daily infusions over three weeks. Accommodation and transport were our immediate concerns especially as it was school holidays. Then we were told of a new service – Ronald McDonald House which had opened in late November 1990.

The House provided us with a welcoming, comfortable and secure place to live with PMH fifteen metres away. My brother soon joined Mum and I, while Dad drove up on weekends. I could head over to the hospital by myself in the morning and we could be a normal family between visits to the hospital. We received the same warm welcome each time we stayed.

It's now been 31 years since my diagnosis and many, many years since we last stayed at the house. We still think of the house fondly and we stay in touch with the House, Staff, Volunteers and past residents. We visit when possible, donate regularly and always participate in McHappy Day. I will also be including a special donation in my Will. Even then, we can't fully repay Ronald McDonald Charities for everything my family received. Thank you "House of Life".

RMHC have expanded since our time at the House. They now also provide a range of complimentary services to assist families while a child is in hospital and to help maintain links with the outside world ie maintaining their education.

Tracey Turner

A very proud Aunt, a Social Worker and an aspiring Author and past guest at RMHC Perth



Get in touch

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