



CHILDHOOD
CANCER SUPPORT

MEDIA RELEASE: 'Arrrrrr' you on board for 'Talk Like a Pirate Day' on 19 September?

Since 1975 **Childhood Cancer Support (CCS)** has been providing a safe haven for regional families whose child is undergoing life-saving treatment for cancer in Brisbane.

CCS General Manager Lisa Godier says: "When your child is diagnosed with cancer you need all the support you can get. Leaving your home to come to Brisbane for treatment can last many months. So, keeping families together through that time is our main objective."

CCS provides medium to long-term accommodation for up to 12 families at any one time at their facilities at Herston, right behind the Royal Children's hospital.

Lisa adds: "Treatment can sometimes last over 12 months and that affects the whole family. That's why CCS also provides financial and emotional support to get them through what can be a stressful and frightening time."

Andrea Bowkett agrees. "When my son Scott was diagnosed with osteosarcoma (bone cancer) in January 2013, our world collapsed."

The family from Dalby were told Scott's treatment would take approximately 12 months and they had nowhere to stay in Brisbane. Andrea admits she was scared about what the future held. "Not only was my son fighting for his life, but we had no place to stay and my girls were back home. We needed to be together."

Then Andrea and her family were told about Childhood Cancer Support and the 1, 2 and 3 bedroom units they provide free of charge just a 5 minute walk from the Royal Children's Hospital. Andrea says, "What a godsend CCS turned out to be for our family. When a child is battling cancer, everything else in your world takes a back seat. We lost our home and our pets. I had to quit work, so it was a real financial struggle."

CCS was able to step in and provide Andrea and her family with free accommodation, transportation and the emotional and financial support they needed to cope.

On **Friday 19 September** CCS will hold a **Talk Like a Pirate Day Family Fun Day** at **Captain Burke Park, Kangaroo Point, 10.00AM – 2.00PM**. Highlights of the day will be the Peebo and Dagwood Clown Show, a jumping castle, Pirate Treasure Hunt, games and lots more.

All funds raised through **Talk Like a Pirate Day** will help CCS keep families like Andrea's together and put smiles on the faces of sick kids and their families.

ENDS

For more information please contact Lisa Godier 0407 602 894 or lisa@ccs.org.au