



Jason Wood MP
Federal Member for La Trobe

MEDIA RELEASE

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Lifesaving drug required for Bianca



Jenny Scott and Jason Wood with a picture of Bianca

The Federal Member for La Trobe, Jason Wood MP recently met with Jenny Scott of Ferntree Gully, who is Bianca Scott's grandmother.

Seventeen year old Bianca has a very rare life threatening condition called Haemolytic Uraemic Syndrome or HUS, which means she spends most of her waking hours in hospital on dialysis. Bianca's plight has been featured on 'The Project' television show.

Tragically Jenny's son David died of HUS when he was only six years old.

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Jenny has asked Jason for help in getting treatment for Bianca in the form of a drug called Soliris which could save her life and end the need for daily dialysis.

The snag is it costs \$500,000 per year for each patient but until now it hasn't been available in Australia at no cost to patients with HUS like Bianca.

'Bianca is my only grandchild and is very dear to me', Jenny stated. 'I hope the Australian Government can help by providing the funds for this life-saving treatment.'

The Federal Government provides assistance with the cost of prescription pharmaceuticals through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) and the Life Saving Drugs Program (LSDP). The drug company who owns Soliris has submitted an application for it to be subsidised under the PBS or LSDP for the treatment of HUS to the independent Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC). The next PBAC meeting is in March 2014.

There has been recent media about another young person inflicted by Haemolytic Uraemic Syndrome, five-year-old Ashley Grey who also needs Solaris. There are others in our community who need this innovative drug.

In the meantime Jason will be lobbying the drug company on Bianca's behalf to try and get access to Soliris for her on compassionate grounds.

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