

25 November 2022

“WISH LIST”

I can't believe it is only one month to go until Christmas Day! The days are speeding by and there is so much to do. At Cystic Fibrosis Australia we will not be slowing down as we head towards the end of the year. In fact, we are ramping up all of our activities, especially as we get closer to the 16th December where we will know the outcome of the PBAC meeting and whether Trikafta will be recommended for the 6-11 year age group. Anyone who has spoken to me would know that it is my deep hope that there is a positive recommendation, I am fairly sure that even my neighbour's dog could attest to this.

At the same time there are a lot of other important things happening for our community. You may have read Asher's story that we have recently shared. Unlike many other children, this Christmas Asher's wish-list aligns with the hope many of us hold deep in our hearts, that Trikafta will be recommended by the PBAC. Like so many other 7-year-old Asher hopes for toys this Christmas as well, such as a new basketball and a Pig the Pug book.

It doesn't seem right that Asher should need to hope for a medication that is already available in 16 other countries in the world.

We need Trikafta to be listed on the PBS to ensure that Asher, along with hundreds of other CF kids, get to enjoy as many Christmases as possible and to live a healthy, whole, and normal life. Trikafta will give him that opportunity. It has been shown that early access can improve and lengthen the quality of life. It will improve and treat the underlying cause of the disease. It will improve his lung function, his appetite, and it will help him to stay out of hospital and give him energy to continue to be the busy 7-year-old that he is.

I hope that this year Asher, and the 500 other Australian children and their families impacted by the outcome of the PBAC get everything on their wish-lists this Christmas. It is crucial that our community can access and benefit from the critical medications that they need. No one can be left behind.

Every week at Cystic Fibrosis Australia we are taking steps to help drive outcomes for our community. This includes advocacy work, and petitioning to our nation's leaders, so that they are aware of the needs of our community and are central to these decisions, including access to affordable medications, such as Trikafta. We are determined to ensure that everyone has the medication they need and access to healthcare so that everyone living with cystic fibrosis can have a fulfilling life.

We cannot do our work, without your support. Donating to Cystic Fibrosis Australia ensures we can continue to advocate and achieve outcomes for our community.

This coming Tuesday the 29th November, is known globally as 'Giving Tuesday'. This is

Jo Armstrong
Chief Executive Officer
Cystic Fibrosis Australia

