

8 December 2022

The Greatest Gift

You may have heard that New Zealand have received provisional agreement for all people living with CF over the age of 6, to have access to Trikafta from April 2023, if they are eligible. This is incredibly positive news for our NZ neighbours, and we have been celebrating with them this week. As you know, we are still hoping for that here in Australia we will have this Christmas Miracle too.

It is now just over a week until we will know if Trikafta is recommended for children aged between six to 11yrs in Australia. Whilst we know this outcome can go one of three ways, the only outcome we need is for it to be recommended. I really hope that the 500 Aussie kids will get the Christmas miracle they need.

Whilst I advocate on a national level, engaging with our many stakeholders including our nation's leaders, government officials and medical professionals, I want to acknowledge that advocacy is a united movement. Without people spreading the message, raising our communities' profile, and donating to our cause, we simply could not do what we do. Indeed, more than 200 of you helped voice your opinions with submissions made to the PBAC about this important decision.

Our Christmas Advocacy Campaign is continuing, and as we head into the end of 2022, we must be prepared for the new year and the on-going challenges we know we need to advocate for. Even with a positive recommendation next week, we need to ensure that the turn around time is quick to ensure Trikafta is available as soon as possible.

There should not be any delays in accessing critical medication.

You may have read the story we shared recently of 7-yr-old Asher and how critically important accessing Trikafta is for him. We must give our CF kids the best opportunities in life, especially as (now) 17 other countries have access to this exact same medication. We cannot be left behind.

Our children need this medication now.

As we are unsure of what the outcome will be on the 16th December, we must be prepared to raise our voices as needed. Whether that is continuing the fight for our CF kids, or celebrating a win, we must ensure the focus is kept on our community and the many other challenges being faced on a daily basis.

Our work will not stop until all lives are unaffected by cystic fibrosis.

The next few weeks will be even busier as everyone prepares for the holiday period. Many of you will be spending time trying to decide what the perfect gift for a loved one will be. During this time, we are asking for your support of our work. We cannot do this work alone.

With your donation, we will be better equipped to continue our advocacy efforts now and into the future, ensuring that everyone gets access to the medication they need and quickly.

We want everyone in our community to have long, healthy lives where people can live out their dreams and access to medication is part of that.

Please show your support by donating today. Thank you for your partnership with us.

Jo Armstrong

Chief Executive Officer

Cystic Fibrosis Australia

Ps. All donations over \$2 are tax-deductible.