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Media Statement

### **BRIGADOON FAMILY BACK EAGLE JAMIE CRIPPS' DIABETES FUNDRAISER**

Brigadoon resident Ethan Fair is helping West Coast Eagle Jamie Cripps kick diabetes research goals after meeting the star forward during National Diabetes Week.

The 11-year-old discovered he had the incurable autoimmune condition type 1 diabetes 16 months ago – a diagnosis that shocked his family.

“It was life-changing for all of us as we learnt how to keep Ethan alive because managing the condition is a 24 hour a day, 7 day a week job,” said Ethan’s mum, Tynita Bozich.

Ethan uses continuous glucose monitoring technology to keep a check on his blood glucose levels and a pump to deliver the lifesaving insulin he needs.

“We’re eternally grateful for research that has led to these advances in managing diabetes but every family who lives with it still dreams of a cure because it’s such a complex condition and keeping on top of it is relentless,” said Mrs Bozich.

Diabetes Research WA executive director Sherl Westlund said while research and technology had positively changed lives, people with diabetes still felt a loss of freedom.

“Having type 1 means you can’t just eat a meal or snack without planning for it because what you eat affects how much insulin you need to take and your blood glucose levels can still swing too high or low which can be dangerous and lead to serious health complications,” she said.

“Our goal is to keep Ethan healthy and manage his blood glucose levels as best we can so that when a cure arrives, he’ll be able to take full advantage of it without diabetes-related health complications,” said Mrs Bozich.

“Ethan manages his diabetes quite well but he still wants to be like the other kids who don’t have it.”

Mrs Bozich said having role models like Jamie Cripps, who was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at the age of 18, just before he was picked up in the AFL draft, was fantastic for Ethan.

The 27-year-old AFL player was recently announced as Ambassador for Diabetes Research WA and is spearheading the charity’s *Help Crippa Kick Diabetes Research Goals* campaign to raise \$60,000 to fund one of the group’s annual diabetes research grants.

Jamie’s dad, John, also has type 1 diabetes.

Head to [chuffed.org/project/help-crippa](http://chuffed.org/project/help-crippa) to donate to the cause or visit [diabetesresearchwa.com.au](http://diabetesresearchwa.com.au).

**Every \$10 donation goes into the draw to win a 2019 framed signed West Coast Eagles home Guernsey.**

**-Background follows-**

Every 5 minutes, another Australian is diagnosed with some form of diabetes.

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare states that the prevalence of diabetes has been escalating over the last three decades, with rates tripling over this period.

In 2014-15, diabetes affected around 1.2 million people (or 1 in 17 adults).

Currently, around 120,000 Australians live with type 1 diabetes.

There are around 2,500 new cases of type 1 diabetes each year in Australia, an average of 7 new cases per day with 6 out of 10 of these people aged under 25.

National Diabetes Week runs from July 14 to July 20.

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