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Media Statement

EAGLE REVEALS HOPE FOR A CURE IN RESEARCH SUPPORT ROLE

Key West Coast Eagles forward Jamie Cripps has revealed he still hopes for a cure for his type 1 diabetes, despite not letting the condition stand in the way of his AFL dreams.

On the eve of National Diabetes Week 2019, the 27-year-old has announced his official role as Ambassador for Diabetes Research WA – a Perth-based charity committed to raising funds for ground-breaking West Australian diabetes research. He’s also helping spearhead *Help Crippa Kick Diabetes Research Goals* – a campaign to raise \$60,000 to fund one of the charity’s annual diabetes research grant.

“I’ve not let my diabetes stop me from playing AFL or doing anything else I dream about but diabetes is difficult to manage even with new technologies and it’s relentless – you can’t not think about it for even a day so those of us who live with it, and those around us, still can’t give up on the idea of a cure,” said Cripps.

“My dad, John, has lived with type 1 diabetes for 32 years now too so this is a hope for both of us, as well as everyone around the world whose lives are impacted by it.”

Cripps was diagnosed with the autoimmune condition – of which the root cause remains unknown – a week before the AFL’s national draft in 2010 at the age of 18. He manages his diabetes with daily insulin injections and careful monitoring of his blood glucose levels.

“I’d worried ever since having kids that they may develop diabetes like I did because I know how hard it is to live with,” said Jamie’s dad, John.

“When Jamie was admitted to hospital seriously ill just before the draft, I was shattered but he’s tackled the challenge head on and I’m proud he’s doing his bit to raise awareness of the condition,”

“I’m grateful that I can manage my diabetes well thanks to research advances, including the discovery of insulin many years ago now, but you definitely lose some freedom when you’re diagnosed – it’s a burden it would definitely be great to live without,” explained Jamie.

“I’m hopeful that by taking on this role with Diabetes Research WA, I can highlight the need for more research into all forms of diabetes.”

Diabetes Research WA executive director Sherl Westlund said having Jamie support was incredible.

“We have world-class researchers in WA undertaking powerful research; with continued support from Jamie and the wider community we can keep searching for a cure and, in the meantime, keep making important breakthroughs to help reduce the potential health complications of diabetes,” she said.

Every dollar counts. To donate to *Help Crippa Kick Diabetes Research Goals* head to chuffed.org/project/help-crippa now.

Head to diabetesresearchwa.com.au for further details.

-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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