

Hughes Family Testimonial (Thomas died February 11th 2011)

I received a phone call from the Muscular Dystrophy Association who told me about "Paradise Kids". They put in a referral on behalf of Thomas and our family.

I received a call from Theresa who told me about the program and what is involved, I said that we would be interested in going on the waiting list for someone to sponsor our family to be able to go to QLD to be part of this Program and have our first real family holiday.

I really didn't think it was possible with us as Thomas wouldn't be able to fly because of his Disability, health and it would all be too hard. I had a phone call about February this year from Theresa saying that a lovely lady had come forward to sponsor Thomas and his family to fly to QLD. With out her donation this would not be possible. I was so happy, it was like it was not true, and I still didn't think it would happen. I was hoping and praying that Thomas stayed well and he got the ok from Doctors, and it was possible to fly him there. The day came for us to leave Ballarat for our holiday, we arrived at Melbourne airport, put all our baggage through and got Thomas onto the plane, it was very hard work and very emotional for me but once we got to QLD and got him in his own chair it was great. It was all very over whelming for me.

We arrived at the house being met by Theresa and Sara who were cooking us a lovely home cooked meal. The house was wonderful, very homely and lots of room for Thomas to get around in his chair. The house had a lovely beach theme, with pictures, shells and ornaments around everywhere. We had a wonderful time going to theme parks, Surfers Paradise and even had the kids looked after so my partner and I could go out for tea. We all enjoyed the opportunity to be able to enjoy a weeks holiday, with lots of special, happy memories that we would not have had otherwise.

We all had the opportunity for counseling & support from Theresa & Dina, which was very much in need. We learned how to control our anger, feelings and talk about Thomas terminal illness and how it all affects our family, how to understand practical skills that I can apply to improve my own life and our families.

I would highly recommend it to others. This was the best Holiday that we all have ever had and I would recommend anyone to support this program or donate to Paradise kids to help sponsor a family like mine to be able to come and experience this wonderful, loving support Paradise Kids offers families. With out donations and sponsors from generous people like the lovely lady that sponsored Thomas, we would never of had the chance to have this amazing holiday and memories that we will have forever in our hearts, even after Thomas passes away. We will always be grateful for this week. Thank you so much to the supporters, volunteers, Theresa, Dina, Sara & Iva for giving us all these memories. (Thomas died February 11th 2011)



Always in our Hearts Tania, Jason, Thomas, Brendon & Jessica