

## McMahon Testimonial

My husband Michael and I have 4 children aged between 5 and 13, and we are a pretty typical, busy, noisy family with lots of activities and competing priorities. Our eldest son Angus has a progressive muscle wasting disease called Duchene Muscular Dystrophy - which means that over the course of his short life he has lost the ability to walk, and continues to lose function as his disease continues to progress. As you can imagine, Angus' special needs impact hugely on everyone in our family - physically, emotionally and financially.

Paradise Kids has been a revelation to us in so many ways. The opportunity for us to have a family holiday in beautiful surrounds where we could provide for Angus' needs and give him some fun experiences without him feeling self conscious - as well as being able to give the other children quality time and attention (and indulgence!) has been incredibly special to us as a family, and for the first time in a very long time, we feel rested.

The team at Paradise kids is a very inspired group of people - we had a simply wonderful week. Every aspect of what a family like ours would need on a holiday is planned and catered for, and we were spoilt on every level – something as basic as not having to go to the supermarket or plan meals for a week was more powerful than you know! We loved meeting and working with everyone.

The opportunity Paradise Kids gave each of us to talk individually to wonderful, professional counsellors about the challenges Angus' disease presents us with, has given us the time and space to make sense of our situation, and the energy and strength to deal with what the future brings. Amazing stuff.

As to the wonderful businesses, which sponsored our week - we hope that you know how much your generosity is appreciated, and admired. Our kids had smiles plastered to their faces as they boarded the plane in Melbourne, and those smiles just got bigger and bigger as the week went on and more and more special things kept happening. They just loved Sea World, having a meal out at the Southport Workers Club and dancing to the music (even though Dad was a bit embarrassing for the two older kids!), relaxing in the gorgeous house in Arundel, swimming in the Broadwater and at Surfer's, being treated so specially at the Hard Rock Café, and experiencing that delightful High Tea at the Royal Pines Resort – and so did we! Thankyou also to Coconut Willy's for a lovely meal on our Wedding anniversary.

We hope that Paradise kids will continue to receive this valuable support so other families in challenging situations can have the opportunity to experience the care, support and fun, which we have benefitted from so greatly.



Michael, Liz, Angus, Hugh and Lucy xxx