

Dear Mr Turnbull

I write to you today regarding an illness known as Idiopathic Gastroparesis which unfortunately my 34 year old daughter has been struck down with.

Gastroparesis is when the stomach becomes paralysed and you are unable to digest food leaving you with only one option in surviving and that is to be fed by tube feeding directly into the bloodstream and this brings obviously implications with infections being fed this way.

This illness has been tabled in Parliament by our local Federal member Ross Hart but since that time it has flown under the radar.

In conjunction with Devonport Rotary, Gastroparesis Launceston have worked tirelessly to raise funding for Research which has now commenced with Western Sydney University into finding a cure for this illness with 2 programs running concurrently.

We have a third option handed to us which Dr Vincent Ho believes could be a groundbreaking solution to this illness but the cost of this is \$150,000.00 to complete the final section prior to being able to trial on humans.

We have received great support from our State Treasurer Peter Gutwein with a contribution of \$20,000.00 from the Tasmanian Government to go with \$10,000.00 raised by fundraising ventures by my group Gastroparesis Launceston and Devonport Rotary and Youngtown Rotary.

Over the past week I have noted that the Federal Government has matched dollar for dollar money raised for another life threatening illness and obviously my question to you is why when I have contacted our Federal Health Minister on a previous occasion the answer I received in writing was that no funding is available for this illness.

Obviously I find that answer unacceptable when we are working tirelessly down here in Tassie to raise an amount which is nowhere near the amount contributed by your Government over the past week, but we do not have a prominent person in front of us to get the recognition that this illness rightly deserves but we are working just as hard .

This illness affects approximately 130,000 individuals in Australia in various forms with 5 in our immediate area, and if you are put in a position that I find myself in you also would fight tooth and nail to fight for a cure because if we do not more lives will be lost .

I am certainly not asking for sympathy I am asking for help with funding for a nine month period to complete this third program as the other 2 programs have the required amount for completion.

Ted Richey from Devonport Rotary is the co-ordinator of this project and has all details of money that we have already raised and can furnish you with those figures.

Also if you care to contact the Honourable Peter Gutwein he also is very aware of our personal fight with fundraising and the illness in general and could furnish you with those details.

We require such a small amount compared to your other commitment, and if we had the same support we would almost be there in our quest to complete this project with Western Sydney University and hopefully save lives.

This is not about my daughter it is about this debilitating illness in general and if you could give this due consideration that would be appreciated.

If you are in Launceston at any stage feel free to contact me to discuss this life threatening illness.

I thank you for taking the time to read this letter and hopefully can help us.

Regards,

Dennis Turner