



August 8 2004

Case study: Kate Hickey

Name: Kate Hickey

Age: 11 years old

Parents: Dianna and Craig Hickey

Sibling: Grant (14-years-old)

- Eleven-year-old Kate Hickey has severe osteoporosis and her fragile bones have been compared to those of a 70-year-old woman.
- As part of her therapy, Kate needs monthly infusions of a bisphosphonate drug to help prevent her bones from breaking.
- Kate initially started monthly infusions at Sydney Children's Hospital at Randwick but now benefits from the new paediatric endocrinology service at Campbelltown Hospital.
- As Kate's family lives in Wilton the trip is a simple and easy 20 minute drive away, compared to a 132 km round trip to Randwick.
- Her mother Dianna Hickey said the staff at Campbelltown Hospital were wonderful and having nearby services helped lift the emotional and physical strain of regular treatments for the whole family.
- "It was emotionally draining for Kate to undergo treatment and then get back in the car and travel long distances in peak hour to return home," said Dianna.
- "With the hospital so close my husband Craig can easily come along for support without needing to take time off work."
- Kate also has epilepsy and is experiencing ongoing seizures once a month despite taking her medication.
- With the new paediatric neurology service at Campbelltown Hospital Kate will have specialist treatment close to home if her neurological condition becomes more severe.
- Kate and her family are very positive about the launch of Sydney Children's Hospital Macarthur Unit and what it means for other families in south-western Sydney.

Issued by Public Affairs, South Western Sydney Area Health Service. For further information or to arrange interviews and pictures of case studies phone 0417 697 079.