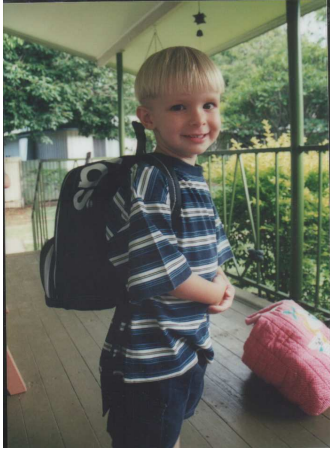


Dig deep for Harri

My name is Matthew Creevey, the father of Harrison Creevey. To help you understand how we got to where we are, and what we have accomplished so far, I have included a short story. To help you understand the road we have in front of us, I have included the 2 plans we have made for Harrison's future.



Harrison was born 1997, and developed normally to the age of 3½ years, at which stage he became very ill with Murray Valley Encephalitis in the February of 2001. He was admitted to hospital in Mt Isa, then later transferred to Townsville where he was put on life support in the ICU, in a medically induced coma. After being moved to the children's ward and stabilising, he was transferred to the Royal Children's Hospital, for rehabilitation in Brisbane.

Harrison now has spasticity quadriplegia, leaving him reliant on others for communication, food, mobility, bathing, positioning and toileting, and thus requires constant supervision. He also suffers from epilepsy and an interrupted swallow, putting further emphasis on the need for constant supervision. Harrison requires complete assistance to get him into and out of the car, wheelchair, seating, bath and bed.

In June 2001, I started a home based, brain recovery exercise program, which originated in the Philadelphia USA. The Founders were Doman & Delicato. This program we did 7 days a week, with up to 8 hours a day. We continued this program until June 2008, where after I changed to a new program called ABR (advanced biomechanical rehabilitation). The New ABR program is directed at improving Harrison's muscle tone from the core muscles. Most weeks I still do Harri's exercises 7 days a week, but only 6-7 hours a day. The treatment has been directed at the problem areas in his upper body and centred around the trunk, neck and head. With the aim of extending the treatment to his hips and legs at a latter stage.

Current medical advice is to do muscle release surgery, mainly to the hamstrings and calf's, but I suspect also his feet. With current research into new treatments like stem cell therapy, deep brain simulation and nerve growth factors, viable alternative medical treatments could be just a year or two away, and if I have not done all I can to avoid irreversible muscular surgery, then I would have done my son a dis-service.



The financial needs for Harrison are far greater than the government assistance that is currently received. Harrison's growing needs will mean his environment will have to be changed to accommodate the equipment that will replace what is currently done by hand. Also when at the appropriate age, we will hope to establish Harrison with independent living. With the hope of reducing the total financial and total physical needs that Harrison's condition applies to us (his parents). While we cannot for see all the things that will be required for Harrison, we do have an 8 year plan and an independent living plan.

8 year plan (to take Harrison through to the age of 20)

Medical		Non-medical		Modifications	
specialists	\$8,000	rehab program	\$54,000	upgrade vehicle	\$30,000
elective hospital	\$10,000	alternate therapies	\$25,000	ramp to house	\$8,000
new wheelchair	\$15,000	full-time carer's	\$150,000	mod's to house inter.	\$5,000
	\$33,000		\$229,000		\$43,000

An estimated total of \$305,000 over the next 8 years.

Independent living plan

Medical		Non-medical		Living and Modifications	
misc. medical	\$10,000 p/a	full-time carer's	\$80,000 p/a	house or unit	\$400,000 (1 off)
equipment	\$7,000 p/a	alternate therapies	\$10,000 p/a	vehicle	\$60,000 (7 yearly)

An estimated total of \$116,000 a year plus the cost of rent or the 1 off cost of a unit. Presuming that any pension would cover the costs of utilities and food.



Thank you for your time and your consideration.

Regards

Matthew Creevey