

The COBBOLD Family History Trust

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LIFE'S FUN. The Endearing Story of Nicky Cobbold.

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Family history trust features are usually about long-dead ancestors. This one is different.

This one is about a little boy of 11 who has Down syndrome and Leukaemia. Nicky Cobbold who lives in Diamond Creek, Melbourne, Australia has endured more trauma, uncertainty and ill health than any child should ever have to confront. He was already battling Down syndrome when he was diagnosed with Leukaemia about 18 months ago. Now he is half way through his chemotherapy course. He has weathered threatening treatments that would have defeated many twice his age.

He never complains says his mother Kate and never asks for anything except 'icy poles' but the thing that really helps is his giant playground given to him by The Make-a-Wish Foundation. Public playgrounds – a Mecca for germs – are a no-go zone for anyone with cancer and Nicky, just like all other children needs the exercise provided by climbing, jumping, sliding and swinging. His playground means he really looks forward to coming home after each of his many trips to hospital.

Nicky's huge resistance to adversity is fuelled by his gigantic appetite for fun.



Footnote. The Make-a-Wish Foundation usually grants wishes of holidays or meetings with celebrities but quickly saw that with public playgrounds banned this unit, which had to be sent from America, was 'just what the doctor ordered'

Nicky's parents Charles and Kate plan to offer the playground as a day retreat for other children with cancer as soon as Nicky is better.

Some content from Diamond Valley Leader is acknowledged and appreciated.