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Help send more children to diabetes camp

Every year, almost 200 young people living with type 1 diabetes miss out on diabetes camps. In the lead-up to the holiday season, Diabetes Victoria is asking for donations to help close this funding gap.

“Our camps for children and teenagers with type 1 diabetes is a shining light of the organisation,” says Diabetes Victoria CEO Craig Bennett. “At camp, young people aged 4 to 17 learn to live well with their chronic condition. The program offers education, information and support to promote and empower self-management for young people with type 1 diabetes.”

“Children have the chance to enjoy all sorts of outdoor adventures at camp and, for many, this is the first time they have spent the night away from home,” Mr Bennett continues.

Diabetes Victoria currently holds six diabetes camps for children of different age groups every year. Just over 250 children attend a camp per year and 50 families are offered a place on one of the two family camps. The fun activities at camp are fully supervised by an expert group of diabetes nurse educators, dietitians, an onsite doctor and experienced volunteers.

There are currently 2900 Victorians under 18 living with type 1 diabetes. “Our aim is to offer a place at camp to every child and young person with type 1 diabetes at least once,” says Mr Bennett. “It is a sad fact that every year around 200 children miss out on this important experience.”

Victorians can help send a child to camp by making a tax-deductible donation online at diabetesvic.org.au or calling the Diabetes Helpline on 1300 136 588. Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

Type 1 diabetes is twice as common in Victorian children as it was 20 years ago. Type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune condition in which the body kills insulin-producing cells. The body needs insulin to move blood glucose (sugar) into cells, giving us energy to think, work and play.

There is no cure for type 1 diabetes. People with type 1 diabetes have to administer insulin for the rest of their lives, often multiple times every day. It is a condition they live with 24/7. Having blood glucose levels which are too high or too low can make people with type 1 diabetes very sick. This is why they test their blood glucose levels around the clock to make sure that they stay in the target range.

*We **support, empower and campaign** for all Victorians affected by diabetes.*

For more information:

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