



CROYDON HILLS

Learning to live with diabetes

FAMILY AND SCHOOL SUPPORT HELPS TIMOTHY, 7, ON HIS WAY

Emma-Jayne Schenk

CROYDON Hills mum Natalie Laukart didn't know what to think when her son Timothy was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age two.

Worries filled her head and she questioned what it meant and whether it was her fault.

Five years on and the family has learnt to establish a routine and realise it's a way of life rather than a limitation.

"At times Timothy says he wishes he didn't have it and he hates getting the needles every day," Ms Laukart said.

"He often questions why him but you start finding out that you can have a happy and healthy life despite all of this."

The family decided to speak out as part of National Diabetes Week, run from July 10 to 16.

Diabetes Victoria chief executive Craig Bennett said more than 5 per cent of the population lived with

diabetes, which highlighted an increased need for expert advice, resources and programs.

Ms Laukart said Timothy was lucky to receive the support he needed from hospital staff, others with diabetes and his sisters Kathrine, 11, and Stephanie, 9.

"Our biggest fear was him going from kindergarten to school and me being away from him all day but ironically in Prep there were three other boys with type 1 diabetes all going through the same stuff."

AT A GLANCE

- Every day, more than 70 Victorians develop diabetes, the majority have type 2
- There are 303,700 Victorians on the National Diabetes Services Scheme, 261,300 have type 2
- Diabetes is the fastest growing chronic condition in Australia and is set to become the No 1 single burden of disease within two years



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BRIEF DIAB-VIC

INDEX 1

PAGE 2 of 2



Croydon Hills Primary School student Timothy, 7, was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes five years ago but lives a happy healthy life with good management.

Picture: STEVE TANNER