



## Childhood Stroke Lived Experience Advisory Group

The Childhood Stroke Lived Experience Advisory Group is made up of six adult survivors of childhood stroke and five parents from across Australia.

The advisory group is closely involved in guiding the project, supporting engagement with the community and developing project topics and content.

Meet our advisory group members who provide their valuable knowledge, experience and time to make this project a success.



### **Dee Banks**

#### **Chair**

Dee's daughter Emma is a survivor of stroke. Dee, from Victoria, co-founded Little Stroke Warriors with Kylie Facer. Little Stroke Warriors' advocacy resulted in the development of the Our Family Stroke Journey resource. Dee and Kylie were the winners of the Stroke Foundation "Improving Life After Stroke" award in 2018 and the Stroke Foundation Presidents Achievement award in 2022.



### **Mitch Fenton**

#### **Deputy Chair**

Mitch, from Victoria, survived a stroke at the age of 16. he has a huge passion for supporting and improving the lives of those who have suffered stroke.

Mitch has a Bachelor of Education and works as an educator. He has been involved in various studies with the Murdoch Children's Research Institute to better understand the causes and effects of childhood stroke and has provided advice to inform the development of the Australian Paediatric Acute Code Stroke (PACS) study.



## Nicola Baker

Nicola's son Jed is a survivor of childhood stroke, and they live with the rare and progressive disease, Moyamoya Disease. Jed had his first stroke at 11 months old and she found there was very limited support available.

Located in Queensland, Nicola established a charity, Moyamoya Australia, to raise awareness and support for Moyamoya Disease, and to ensure that those newly diagnosed with Moyamoya Disease could find specific information about their diagnosis.

Nicola has been involved in Stride4Stroke for many years and was awarded Fundraiser of the Year for the annual Stroke Foundation Awards 2022. Nicola has also won the Michelle Commins Legacy Award at the Cairns Business Women's Club 2022 in recognition of her commitment to those with Moyamoya Disease.



## Amanda Clayton

Amanda's daughter Sophie is a survivor of stroke. Located in Queensland, Amanda is the founder of hospitalpjs, a company creating beautiful and practical children's pajamas. Amanda is a consumer representative on the Queensland Statewide Stroke Clinical Network and is part of the Paediatric Stroke Subcommittee. Amanda and Sophie created the Stroke Kids Facebook group and have been involved in Our Family Stroke Journey and the Towel Challenge campaign in 2020 and 2021.

## Michelle Di Berardino

Michelle's son James is a survivor of stroke. Michelle, from Victoria, is a Research and Insights Manager and has a background in psychology. In 2021, Michelle was selected as a community member to participate in a co-design project for IPC Health to create a service model that supports families experiencing difficult life situations. Michelle is also a School Council Member at her son's school where she actively advocates for the students and the parent community.



## **Hailey McKirdy**

Hailey, from Victoria, is a childhood stroke survivor who had a stroke at the age of six. Hailey works as a carer for young adults with acquired brain injuries and has a role as lived Experience program consultant. Hailey had an advisory role on the paediatric stroke clinical practice guidelines research project. Hailey is a member of the Heads Together Advisory Committee Round Table.



## **Tala Olins-Miller**

Tala, from Western Australia, is passionate about advocating for stroke awareness. She suffered a cerebellar stroke at the age of 13 and through countless hours of rehabilitation over the following two years she was lucky enough to make a full recovery.

Tala is a physiotherapist who helps stroke patients through the NDIS with gross motor rehabilitation to achieve their personal goals. She has fundraised for Stroke Foundation through participating in events such as the HBF Run for a Reason and Rottnest Island Channel Swim highlighting her passion for keeping active.



## **Anthony Peacock**

Anthony's daughter Georgia is a survivor of stroke. Based in Victoria, Anthony and Georgia have been involved in Our Family Stroke Journey and the "When Stroke Strikes" webinar. Anthony has worked in health, both clinically and in corporate for the last 25 years and is also currently on the parent advisory group at Brainwave. Anthony was previously the paediatric parent member for New South Wales Agency for Clinical Innovation Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program Co-Design Project.

Anthony is passionate about building awareness across all levels of the community on childhood stroke and ABI, research into prevention and survivor and their family, support so that they can fulfil their life goals.



## **Tommy Quick**

Tommy is from Victoria and suffered a stroke when he was 12 years old. He has a Bachelor of Human Nutrition and is a qualified personal trainer. Tommy is also a motivational speaker and mentor. Tommy is a big advocate for breaking down social barriers, especially for people with physical/invisible challenges.



## **Cameron Suhr**

Cameron, from Victoria, survived a major stroke when aged 2½ years old. He participated with his family in the early Heads Together camps started by Kate Heine.

Cameron has worked with Valid (the Victorian Advocacy League for Individuals with Disability) as a Peer Action Group leader in Bairnsdale. He is keen to share the skills developed there in his new role with Stroke Foundation. His interests include meeting people, fish keeping, going to the gym, cooking and watching movies. Cameron sees his strengths as his humour and determination.