

Testimonial demonstrating the value of bequests to your cause (pdf)

A Will to save lives

It was 31 October 1982, the night before June Nuttall's 44th birthday – one that she will never forget. Her son Lloyd wrapped up her birthday gift, kissed her goodnight and went to bed. Tragically, he never woke up to see the light of day. He passed away in the early hours of the morning.

Lloyd suffered from a very rare form of asthma, called tension pneumothorax. With this condition, the accumulation of air under pressure in the chest cavity compresses the heart and the blood vessels, with the potential to cause fainting, collapse of the lung or a cardiac arrest.

Lloyd had recovered from one severe attack previously whilst on holiday in Tasmania. Unfortunately, the second attack claimed his life.

As any mother would, June was overwhelmed with thoughts that she could have done something to prevent Lloyd's death – but doctors reassured her otherwise. In fact, Lloyd's condition was, and still is, so rare that very little is known about its cause or how it should be treated.

Then in December 2000, June was involved in a near fatal accident. During the months it took for her recovery, June spent a great deal of time reflecting on Lloyd, her accident and on the fragility of life. It was then that she resolved to make a bequest to The Children's Hospital at Westmead.

June has made arrangements in her Will for the establishment of The Lloyd Nuttall Respiratory Fellowship. Her generosity will support research into tension pneumothorax, training of specialist doctors and the purchase of medical equipment for the Department of Respiratory Medicine. She also continues to help with many other fundraising efforts.

"I thought before I die there's got to be something I can do to stop others suffering from this terrible illness," says June.

"If my money can help doctors understand and treat Lloyd's rare condition, there may be hope for people in time to come. And maybe no mother will have to go through the pain I did when I lost my only child. I shared so much with him... now all I have left are memories of a very fine son."