



## **GEORGIE BENNETT OF ROUSE HILL NAMED AS FAMILY CARER CATEGORY WINNER FOR NSW**

**Georgie Bennett from Rouse Hill has been selected as the NSW winner in the awards in the Family Carer category.**

Georgie Bennett is a mother of three children, wife to Steve, home manager and friend to many in the community.

Although it's a busy household anyway, in supporting their eldest daughter, Georgie and her husband face some extra challenges as she was born prematurely and with multiple complex health needs. At 18 months their daughter was diagnosed with the very rare Phelan-McDermid Syndrome caused by deletion of Chromosome 22.

Mum Georgie has a sunny disposition and a very positive outlook on life which is what gets her by. She says their routines may look different to that of other families, and often they have disruptions in their week, but it's just normal life to them.

She says her children are all very close and supportive of each other, and all busily pursuing their own interests from Tae Kwon Doe to swimming, netball, AFL and playing the violin. The younger two have recently joined the sign language choir. Georgie says she and her husband are very proud of all three of them, and grateful to friends and family who assist in managing all the activities in their hectic weekly diary.

Although their eldest daughter is dependent on them for all aspects of her daily living needs as well as coordinating her complicated diary of medical, specialist and therapist appointments, Georgie focuses on keeping life running smoothly and continues to provide support and care for the rest of her family with an optimistic and determined attitude.

On many nights Georgie gets little, or no sleep as their daughter has round the clock medication requirements and needs additional care. There have been setbacks and unexpected challenges, but she says they just get on and do what needs to be done.

For others who know the family, Georgie's commitment to her responsibilities comes without any complaints or hesitation, and she is always the first to put her hand up to assist others in their times of need. Along with 13 friends, she recently

completed the 35km “Bloody Long Walk” from Palm Beach to North Head to help raise awareness and much needed funds for Mitochondrial disease.

Georgie has at times missed out on special events, as she has been caring for her child or in hospital with her. Despite this, she remains very positive and is adamant she doesn’t do anything special. “Lots of people do more than me. I just do what I have to do for my family.” she says.