



ANITA GLOVER NAMED AS YOUNG CARER CATEGORY WINNER FOR TASMANIA

Anita Glover has been selected as the state winner in the Family Carer category.

Anita is mum to two children, a 10 week old and an older daughter Sophia who is nearly two years old. Nominated by her fiancé for the national carer awards, she says although their eldest was born with a rare genetic disorder, to them she is just like any other child.

“We don’t ever classify her as having a disability, she is just herself and an important member of the family” Anita says.

Their daughter has had 11 surgeries in her short life, including having a tracheostomy before she was one month old. Anita says she is a loving wonderful child, and they are the only ones who can really care for her in the way she needs. She often endures sleepless nights while attending to Sophia's care needs whilst her fiancé Robbie is at work looking after their small business.

While the new baby brings new demands and extra tiredness, Anita says the focus for her is providing everyday care for Sophia too – and when she is unwell, nothing else much will get done around the house.

She said it can be physically and emotionally draining at times, but there are rich rewards. Anita said her daughter is already learning some simple signing for communication and is developing well in this area and interacting with them.

Robbie said the constant care and dedication she applies to Sophia is beyond what most young mums would ever be able to manage or expect to have to provide.

“Anita has had an amazing impact on Sophia's life. She has never let any of the things she was told medically about Sophia slow her down or limit her expectations, constantly encouraging her with every milestone.

“We were told Sophia's late start to feeding meant she would not eat as well as other toddlers even with the feeding tube. After much pain and persistence from Anita, Sophia now eats almost everything from scallops to pasta,” he said.

Formerly working as a full time hairdresser Anita has started to run her own part-time salon business from the garage – doing hair cutting and styling for people in the neighbourhood to supplement the family income.

Anita said it was a big lovely surprise to be nominated for the awards, but she sees herself as just a Mum who does what she has to do to keep the family going.

She said “I really just go with the flow and support my children. But it is so nice to feel that I’ve been recognised and appreciated in this way.”