



ELLIE MOIR NAMED AS YOUNG CARER CATEGORY WINNER FOR WA

Nineteen year old Ellie Moir of Banksia Grove has been selected as the state winner in the Young Carer category.

Ellie Moir demonstrates incredible resilience in all aspects of her life. She is the full time carer to her mother Lynette and lives with Ehlers-Danlos syndrome and Postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome (POTS) which requires physical rehabilitation and constant testing and visits to specialists.

Ellie has cared for her Mum since she first became ill in August 2009. Lynette was hospitalised after becoming suddenly ill (literally overnight) and unable to walk, speak or otherwise take care of herself. Ellie was 13 years old at the time.

After many months of uncertainty Lynette was finally diagnosed with chronic fatigue, fibromyalgia and rheumatoid arthritis.

Ellie is now going into second year studying Psychology at University and has an amazing workload which she manages with diligence and dedication. Somehow she balances this commitment with her caring role.

Although with her condition Mum has good and bad days, Ellie is consistently responsible for managing all her general assistance and runs the household. She is the only income earner and manages the household finances, bills, meals and cleaning as well as travel to and coordination of appointments.

Despite these demands in her home life, Ellie has muscle deterioration and cannot walk long distances or play sport, and requires the use of seating equipment for comfort and posture to sit exams while at university.

With her limited mobility, she does all her lectures online, attending the campus for tutorials on 2 days a week. Although she rarely complains, because of her condition, Ellie lives with joint swelling, pain and exhaustion but to the outside world appears to be a normal, happy and healthy young woman.

Sister Krista who nominated her for the awards said "Ellie never complains about her carer responsibilities even though I know she struggles to meet her own health needs on top of managing Mum's."

Despite everything, Ellie has always maintained a positive outlook and has remained dedicated to her further education to one day assist carers like herself. She hopes to work as a clinical psychologist.