

YOUNG BRAIN CANCER SURVIVOR TAKES ON \$100K CHALLENGE WITH ANDREW FORREST TO BOOST BRAIN CANCER RESEARCH

www.walk4braincancer.com.au/baxter

Seven weeks ago, 17-year-old Baxter Hutchinson couldn't feel his arms or legs, swallow, or see after surgery to remove one of his two malignant brain tumours. But on Sunday 11 November, he'll be tackling Cure Brain Cancer Foundation's Walk4BrainCancer Perth, boosted by the news that billionaire philanthropist Andrew Forrest's Eliminate Cancer Initiative will dollar-match everything he raises, up to \$100,000.

Better yet, if Baxter reaches that milestone, Mr Forrest will donate another \$100,000, resulting in a potential \$300,000 boost for world-class brain cancer research.

When Mr Forrest learned of Baxter's inspiring story and his journey with medulloblastoma - a common and often deadly form of brain tumour in children - he and the team at Eliminate Cancer Initiative supported Baxter's family. On Sunday, they will all join more than 800 other passionate West Australians at Walk4BrainCancer Perth, taking to their feet for the annual event in a bid to raise funds and awareness to help find a cure.

"I want to fundraise as much money as possible so that kids have an easier time going through any type of brain cancer in the future," **Baxter said**. "Andrew's challenge gave me something to strive for each day, a goal to work towards, and something to focus on, other than things like treatment and getting my own body better."

"Brain cancer has an awful impact on too many young Australian families, and we desperately need more research funding to find breakthroughs, so that young people like Baxter can receive better treatments and have better outcomes," **said Michelle Stewart, CEO of Cure Brain Cancer Foundation**. "The passion and determination of the brain cancer community, coupled with the incredible generosity of Australians like Andrew Forrest, is a formidable force, and we're so excited to get behind this inspirational campaign. Good luck, Baxter!"

"Raising \$100,000 in just a few weeks is a mighty challenge but Baxter has well and truly stepped up to the plate," **Mr Forrest said**. "He has shown tremendous character in fighting this terrible disease, and then so quickly turning his mind to raising funds to help find a cure. Cures require research, and research requires capital, so I call on all Australians to step up like Baxter has, accept the challenge and contribute to a better future for people with cancer."

It's not the first time Cure Brain Cancer Foundation has teamed up with the Forrest family's Mindereroo Foundation to fight the disease. Last year, the foundations were instrumental in the establishment of the Australian Brain Cancer Mission - a landmark \$105 million plan to double brain cancer survival in ten years and improve patients' quality of life. Mr Forrest also dollar-matched the fundraising efforts of young brain cancer survivor [Jacob Trzecinski](#) at last year's Walk4BrainCancer Manly, raising more than \$300,000 for the cause.

Walk4BrainCancer Perth is a beautiful 5km walk around Sir James Mitchell Park on the South Perth Foreshore. Attendees will hear from Andrew Forrest and Baxter, as well as 2017 Cure Brain Cancer Foundation Innovation Grant recipient, Associate Professor Nick Gottardo, from Telethon Kid's Institute. Following the walk, a BBQ and live entertainment are provided and attendees are encouraged to stay and meet other members of this incredible community.

Funds raised by Baxter Hutchinson's Walk4BrainCancer Perth will be allocated to Cure Brain Cancer Foundation's \$20 million commitment to the Australian Brain Cancer Mission

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Donations can be made to Baxter Hutchinson's page at www.walk4braincancer.com.au/baxter. This fundraising campaign runs until 17:00 WST on Friday 23 November, 2018.

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ABOUT CURE BRAIN CANCER FOUNDATION

Cure Brain Cancer Foundation is Australia's leading organisation for brain cancer research, advocacy and awareness. Since the Foundation launched its mission to increase brain cancer survival from 20% to 50% by 2023 in 2013, the disease has gone from being a 'forgotten cancer' to a national health priority. In the past five years, Cure Brain Cancer Foundation has committed more than \$18 million to brain cancer research, including more than \$7.7 million for paediatric-related brain cancer research projects.

That funding has backed 41 research projects in Australia and overseas and has enabled almost 570 global collaborations. It also funds tireless advocacy, resulting in the establishment of the Australian Brain Cancer Mission and the continued prioritization of brain cancer by the Government.

ABOUT MINDEROO FOUNDATION

Minderoo Foundation was established by Nicola and Andrew Forrest in 2001 based on the mandate to give a hand up, not a hand out. Since establishment the Foundation has committed \$772m to a range of causes – from ending modern slavery to improving the lives of Australian children - and worked with over 250 partners in Australia and beyond.

ABOUT BRAIN CANCER

- The five-year survival rate for brain cancer is just 22%. In the last 30 years, this figure has barely changed
- More than 1700 Australians will be diagnosed with brain cancer in 2018
- More than 1250 Australians will die of brain cancer in 2018
- Brain cancer kills more children than any other disease in Australia. Each year, the equivalent of a classroom of children will pass away at a tragically young age
- Brain cancer takes people in the prime of their lives – it kills more young adults under 40 than any other cancer