

Our son **** was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes in March 2009, he was 13 years 8 months old and in year 8 at school.

For approximately 18 months he injected himself 4 times a day to try to maintain stable blood glucose levels (BGLs). There were two main problems with injecting; Firstly, we had to guess the amount of carbs he would eat over the following 4-6 hours, if we overestimated he would have too much insulin and his BGLs would go low if we underestimated the insulin injected would not be enough and his BGLs would be high. Secondly, injecting in public could sometimes be a problem. While he didn't mind injecting at school he did not like doing it when out socially with friends, for example at the footy or at shopping centres, and he would sometimes wait till he got home before having his insulin.

After researching pumps on-line and discussing with our Diabetes Educator we decided that a pump would best solve these problems.

As we do not have private health cover we initially thought that a pump would be too expensive for us to consider but thanks to the government Insulin Pump Program we were able to purchase a Medtronic Insulin Pump. We received a subsidy of \$6400 and made a co-payment of \$1600.

Since being on the pump, **** has found it easier to control his BGLs. He has more freedom to eat when he wants and has no problem using the pump when in public. On days where he plays a lot of sport he finds it easier to adjust/reduce his insulin because he knows if his BGLs are high he can bolus to adjust. Also, a line change every three days is far better than 4 injections a day.

As far as cost goes, we were very fortunate to get the subsidy and we think it should be available to all Type 1s regardless of their age. Our ongoing expenses are about \$50.00 every 2/3 months but we feel that this is an investment in ****'s long term health.

Thank you.
