

# BREAKING BARRIERS FOR CYSTIC FIBROSIS **TODAY'S DEDICATION**

DAY 2: SATURDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023

## Jess



Jess Ragusa lives with CF, she was diagnosed at birth, and was relatively well as a child. However, when she was just 18, she cultured Burkholderia Cepacia and was given 6 months to live.

Jess's lung function sat in the 40's, she was having three hospital admissions a year and she was struggling with everyday tasks. She found herself in a deep dark hole, where she actually sat her parents down and said that she "couldn't do life anymore, things would be easier if she was dead"...

That was 10 years ago!

Jess has been a huge advocate for getting Trikafta on the PBS after her family had to remortgage their house to pay the \$21,375 a month for Trikafta prior to it being approved by the former government. Jess's parents, Kellie and Mark sacrificed everything, because "what's the point in having a home, if you don't have your child".

Jess and her husband James got married in 2020, they had been struggling for two years to fall pregnant. Jess started taking trikafta in 2021 and just 4 months on this life changing drug, Jess fell pregnant. Now, her baby boy Cooper is 10 months old, and is thriving.

Jess is happy and healthy and hasn't had a hospital admission since starting Trikafta back in 2021!





