

BREAKING BARRIERS FOR CYSTIC FIBROSIS

# TODAY'S DEDICATION

DAY 33: TUESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> OCTOBER 2023



## LEAH

Hello 🙋 I'm Leah and I have CF!

I was diagnosed at 54 after years of misdiagnoses from a multitude of specialists.

I had recurrent pancreatitis from 13, recurrent bronchitis, 2 induced pregnancies, and had my appendix and gallbladder removed as a teen because they couldn't work out why I had pain. I had some tests done at 20 and was told the pancreatitis was due to alcohol and if it was actually CF I would already be dead!

The lung issues developed at 45 and the misdiagnoses began.

From COPD to fungal chest infections. Everyone told me I would already know if I had CF. I finally convinced a doctor to test me for CF in December 2022. I was then officially diagnosed and able to commence Trikafta and Creon. I don't cough anymore!!!

Living rural, I make semi-regular trips to the Cystic Fibrosis Clinic in Brisbane and have Trikafta posted to my home.

Since my diagnosis, my son has been diagnosed with CBAVD (Congenital bilateral absence of the vas deferens) which is a result of his CF gene mutation inherited from me.

I feel like an imposter, my symptoms seem negligible in comparison to those courageous and inspiring little fellas who fight the tough fight everyday.

