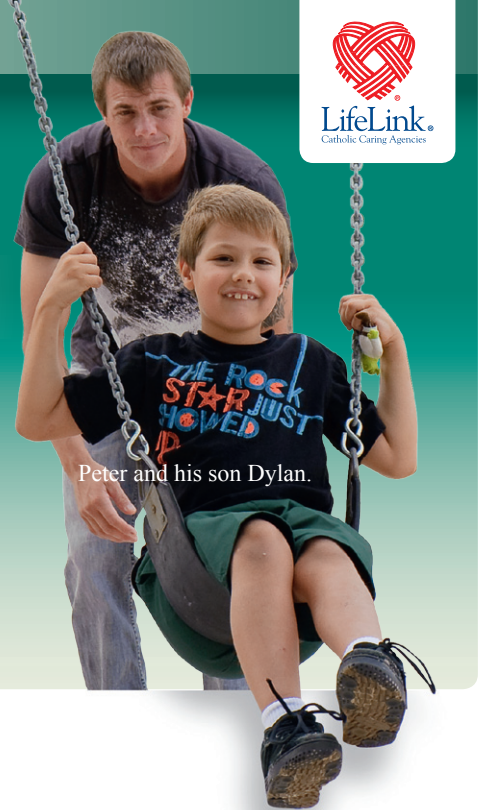


Let's help because we **MUST...**

...not because we **SHOULD**



Peter and his son Dylan.

Most Rev Barry J Hickey
Archbishop of Perth

Dear

In the latest edition of our LifeLink newsletter, there is a remarkable story which I'd like to share with you.

It is the story of Peter, told in his own words. I hope it resonates with you, as much as it did with me.

“ I began smoking marijuana at just 10 years old. I never thought I'd end up using heroin, because I was always scared of needles to be honest. When I was 16 and drunk at a party, some guy injected me with heroin.

That was all it took for me to start using.

At first, I took it on Friday nights, then weekends and eventually every day. I had a great job in the carbon crushing industry and earned really good money, so I could afford it at first. When I needed more, because I had a good credit rating I took out a \$15,000 personal loan, which all went on drugs. My girlfriend at the time hated heroin, so I changed to speed.

At just 23 years of age, I became a father. My son Dylan was a beautiful baby however he was born with an intellectual disability.

Doctors told us Dylan's brain would develop slower than normal, which meant by the time he was eight, he would be at the same level of learning as a 3 year old. My partner and I had a fairly up and down relationship, we were always fighting and arguing and I just couldn't take it anymore, so when Dylan was 5 years old, I left and moved back in with my parents. Dylan and his mum moved into a refuge for single mothers.

One day, I received a call from welfare officers informing me that Dylan could no longer live with his Mum.

Thankfully my parents were granted temporary custody and I was given time to prove that I could care for Dylan.

Six long months later, I was granted sole custody, which was the happiest day of my life mate.

That's what first led me to Centrecare. My parents had decided to move interstate, so I needed a new home for me and Dylan. Centrecare provided us temporary accommodation in a really nice two bedroom duplex while we waited for a Department of Housing home to become available (we ended up staying for 14 months, so much for temporary).

Centrecare asked if I needed any furniture etc but I had my own stuff, and I said there was probably someone else who needed it more than we did.

Centrecare has really helped Dylan. He was attending school at a place for severely intellectually and physically disabled children. He didn't belong there. I wanted him to be in a "normal" school, where he looked like every other child, and where he could be given special help.

Thanks to Linda Williams, our case worker at Centrecare, she helped get Dylan into the Cloverdale Education Support Program, and the results have been amazing. His speech is clearer, he is so much happier and confident and I am over the moon that my son has children to play with and learn with.



I can't thank Centrecare or Linda enough. They are all really nice people, they care about Dylan and me and they continue to be there for us. We all need someone to be there for us, don't we. That's why I am sharing my story. If it can help anyone, I want them to know that life can get better...with a little help.

I've drug-free for 2 or 3 years now. While my son is at school, I've been working part-time at a hydroponics store which I really enjoy. I'd love to work fulltime, but I have to be there to care for Dylan.

We don't have much but we have each other, and mate, that's enough.

I'm doing the best I can".



Pictured: Linda Williams from Centrecare Gosnells, with Peter & Dylan

Peter's story is a reminder that God asks each of us to not only have Faith, but to live our Faith - to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, and walk with those who most need our help and reach out to us.

This is just one of more than **25,000 calls for help** "our" Centrecare agency will respond to this year. Serving communities throughout Western Australia for more than 40 years, Centrecare provides professional services and programs for families and individuals in crisis. This includes providing support for people battling addictions, counselling and therapy programs, emergency housing for the homeless, specialist services for migrants and refugees... and much, much more.

Centrecare works in our community, for our community. It's organizational motto is "people making time for people"...and that is all God expects from any of us.

As I officially launch my 2010 Winter Appeal for LifeLink, I ask you to think about Peter and Dylan, and how through your generosity you have helped make an impact in their life, and will help thousands more who turn to one of our LifeLink agencies for help.

Let's help because we must, not because we should. Please give generously to my appeal and help raise a minimum of \$300,000 for people in need this winter.

Complete the donation form below and mail your gift today in the envelope provided. Donations are tax deductible and receipts will be issued.



Thank you and God Bless
Yours sincerely in Jesus Christ

Most Rev Barry J Hickey
Archbishop of Perth

Please visit our website to
make a secure credit card donation
www.lifelink.com.au

Donations are tax deductible and
receipts will be issued.

LifeLink Office

61 Fitzgerald Street, Northbridge WA 6003 Tel +61 8 9427 0311 Fax +61 8 9427 0379 Email admin@lifelink.com.au Website www.lifelink.com.au

PRIVACY ACT: To access your personal information or to be removed from our mailing list please write to: LifeLink, GPO Box K828 Perth WA 6842.

YES, I want to help families in need this winter.

Please accept my donation of (please tick one box only)

- \$50 \$75 \$150 \$300 \$500 Other \$ _____

Enclosed is my cheque payable to LifeLink

OR Debit my credit card

Visa Mastercard AMEX (15 numbers only)

Credit Card Number

_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|

Expiry date /

Name on card _____

Signature _____

Thank you and God Bless

Donations over \$2 are tax deductible when a name and address are supplied

