

Andrew's story

I was first introduced to SANDS in late 2000 following the death of my baby boy. Andrew had been delivered by emergency ceasar 6 weeks early due to me having severe pre-eclampsia. He was only 3.9lbs. Whilst he battled on he had a major set back by contracting golden staf. This made him seriously ill and the doctors thought the staf had gone to his heart but after doing a heart scan we were told that he had hyper-plastic left heart. How devastating is that.

We were advised that his heart disease is 100% fatal, and the only option for survival, although not a good one was to undergo a major heart operation. We were advised to stay home and let him die. NETS took us to the Melbourne Childrens Hospital where he underwent a 7 hour operation.....he was only 21 days old.

Andrew battled on every minute of the day and night and jumped every hurdle the doctors through at him. The doctors were negative about his survival and the nurses were amazed he was still with us every morning. Then on the 3rd morning the hurdle was too high and he passed away in my arms. Andrew was born on the 2nd of October and passed away on the 26th.

October has always been Andrew's month and now is a very special time of year for me. I only knew him for 34 weeks and 24 days, I love him and I miss him and my life will never be the same.

There was so much sadness, anger, disbelief and pain surrounding Andrews death and it only stopped hurting so much about a year ago when I came to terms with him leaving. I'm a spiritual person and believe that he is safe in a very beautiful place and I will get to be with him again. I no longer want to join him soon as I now have the most beautiful little girl and she needs me much more than he ever will now. My daughter Rachel is the perfect gift and there isn't even a minute that goes by that I take her for granted. She is the most loved and wanted person in the world.

My early days with Rachel were very scary for me as I started to have panic attacks, convinced that she would die too. She is two years old this Saturday and whilst I don't believe she will leave me I still thank God for every precious moment.

I didn't realise that loosing a baby would effect so many things for so long. I still worry constantly about everything to do with Rachel and physically have to stop myself from being over bearingly protective.

Andrew John Sloan
2 October 2000 - 26 October 2000

To our little man who shone so bright,
who jumped every hurdle with almighty fight,
we wanted him so much but it wasn't to be,
for God wanted him sooner, that was easy to see.

So little bubbles we must say goodbye,
with our hand on our heart we will always ask why.
Your now a beautiful Angel in Gods care
who will always be missed until we meet you there.
We love you and our lives will never be the same again