

# He's Eamon to win by a nose

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OLYMPIAN Todd Pearson and his wife Alisa — whose baby son died suddenly last year — have thanked supporters who raised almost \$70,000 for the organisation helping them through their grief.

The couple are receiving bereavement counselling from SIDS and Kids WA after Zac, affectionately dubbed "Daddy's little wingman", died suddenly in his bed on September 24, two months before his second birthday.

The Pearsons asked family and friends to donate to SIDS and Kids in place of sending cards and flowers. Tens of thousands of dollars in honour of Zac have been added in continued donations this year.

Fellow Olympic swimmer Eamon Sullivan will push the tally further.

After seeing the devastating experience his mentor and friend went through, he signed up as an ambassador for Red Nose Day, which is on Friday, and aims to raise \$10,000.

The Pearsons donated \$500 to Sullivan's fund-raising webpage and wrote: "Thank you to all who donate  
**By LISA QUARTERMAIN**

and this is (in) honour of our little man, Zac. We miss you so much. Love your Mum, Dad and brother, Ari."

Sullivan's mother Pam and sister Pia are among many Pearson family friends joining the cause, by baking and selling red-nose cupcakes.

Parents who have lost babies to SIDS will also be involved in the national awareness day, manning

stalls at shopping centres throughout WA.

Sullivan said SIDS was an experience no family should have to go through. "It's shocking to think that for a problem that every family has to face in the early years of childhood, SIDS and Kids receives less than 5 per cent in funding from the government — and no federal government funding for bereavement counselling," he said.

SIDS and Kids recommends putting babies to sleep on their back from birth, sleeping babies with their face and head uncovered, not smoking, providing a safe cot, mattress and bedding night and day, and sleeping babies in their own cot next to the parents' bed for the first six to 12 months of life.



**ON THE BALL:** Swimmer Eamon Sullivan is an ambassador for Red Nose Day.