



Muscular Dystrophy
New Zealand

999999
Mr A B Sample
Sample Street
Sample Suburb
Sample City 9999

All about HAZEL

Dear <Salutation>

I'd like to introduce you to my daughter Hazel. She's almost five years old, she loves drawing pictures with brightly coloured felt pens, and pumpkin is her favourite food. She's equally adored by her baby brother Ted, and her big brother Bill.

When she grows up, Hazel wants to be a physiotherapist. She's seen more than her fair share of physios, doctors and occupational therapists since her diagnosis with Spinal Muscular Atrophy (one of more than 60 conditions supported



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Muscular Dystrophy
New Zealand

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by MDANZ) when she was nine months old. Trips to the physiotherapist aren't always easy for Hazel, and she has to be brave. But she wants to be one so she can help other children.

Hazel is the face of the Muscular Dystrophy of New Zealand's (MDANZ) Freedom appeal, and the fact that she's already got big dreams for her future sums up freedom to me.

Our family has other dreams as well, and we look forward to seeing them become reality very soon. Hazel starts school at the beginning of next year, and it's our dream that despite her disability, she will have the same opportunities as the other kids in her class. We hope she will have friends and teachers who can be creative, and look past the hurdles Hazel will face, to see the wonderful things she can do and be.

Nothing is quite the same after you get the news your child has a life-changing progressive condition. So when we left the hospital that day four years ago, we decided we would just get on with life, love our daughter and find a way to provide anything Hazel needed.

In those early days, the first thing we wanted was to find out who could help us. Luckily there was MDANZ, a supportive and professional group of people with real-life experience with this condition. MDANZ is a golden resource for families who need to move forward. Doctors are so busy, but MDANZ is there to provide support, information and advice when families need it.

That's another dream we have, that this organisation will receive the support it needs to help families like ours. Thank you so much for your support, it makes a big difference.

Nikki

Nikki West
Mum and MDANZ member



Our family today (top), and some pictures that were taken when Hazel was about a year old, not long after we received the diagnosis.

Tear here

Thank you very much for your support

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Freedom