

Dear Friend of Leanna and Bethany,

It has been a while since we featured a story on Leanna and Bethany so we are writing to you to give you an update and to once again invite your support for these two very special girls.

We've launched this **urgent** fundraising appeal to help raise vital funds to allow Leanna and Bethany to have further medical treatment here in Australia, and to improve their quality of life at home during 2015

Leanna who is now 20, and Bethany 18, are the only two young adults known in the world to have a rare, progressive, degenerative neurological disorder featuring their unique and personal combination of symptoms. There is no known cure and treatment is severe and often debilitating.

When we first told the story on A Current Affair of their unique life threatening circumstances and the need to fund surgery in France, many were moved by the suffering of these two little girls and the severity of their rare disorder and kindly made a donation to help the girls have life saving surgery in France.

Thanks to your support, both girls were able to undergo the operation called Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) where electrodes were placed in the brain and connected by wires to batteries implanted in their abdomens. The electrodes in their brain send electrical impulses to specifically targeted parts of the brain aiming to minimize the excruciating muscle pain, excessive contraction, restricted body movement, tremors and spasms which cause their bodies to painfully twist in abnormal positions.



There is no doubt that the surgery saved Bethany's life and improved her mobility. Leanna's treatment has not been successful. She's in a lot of pain, her ability to speak is deteriorating and it is difficult for her to eat. Now Leanna often has a feeding tube to keep her alive.

Just when we thought things couldn't get any worse for Leanna, sadly, in addition to Primary Dystonia, Leanna was diagnosed with Parkinson Disease. Her future and quality of life looks very bleak.

Your Support for Leanna and Bethany will help us to raise enough money to cover the cost of care and ongoing medical expenses and with Leanna's health declining rapidly, the family desperately needs funds to help get her the care and treatment she needs to stay alive.

The family desperately need funds to help both girls get the care they need to stay alive.



Importantly, you can help improve the quality of life of both the Mills Sister. With your help we will be able to raise enough funds to improve their quality of care with the assistance of the latest in medical equipment, and medical treatments all of which comes at a high cost.

Leanna and Bethany now have their own registered charitable foundation which means all donations of \$2 or more are fully tax deductible. So, in the lead up to the end of the financial year, you can again have a real impact on improving the quality of life of these two brave young girls and their family by making your tax deductible donation today.

With your help, we can make a real difference to the lives of Bethany and Leanna by improving Leanna and Bethany's chances at life.

***A new Biography coming out in 2015 - "UNCERTAIN LIVES"
The Story of the Mills Family - Where to now?***

If there is only one charity you can support this year, please make a donation to the Mills Sisters and know that you are helping to save and improve the lives of two very special kids

Yours sincerely,

Ben Fordham
Journalist
A Current Affair

