



## THE LONGEST STAY AT RMH MONASH:

**139 Nights**

## FURTHEST DISTANCE TRAVELLED:

**6386 kms**

A family on holidays visiting from Malaysia experienced an unexpected arrival, with the premature birth of their baby, they stayed with Ronald McDonald House Monash for approximately 2 months until they were able to return home.

## NUMBER OF FAMILIES THAT HAVE HAD ACCESS to LOUNGE ROOM

**317 Families**

317 families have been able to access our shared living spaces, in particular the lounge room in the past 6 months. All of these spaces are what makes RMH Monash feel like a Home away from Home

## REASONS FAMILIES NEEDED THE COMFORT OF RMH MONASH

- Monash have had several patients visit for ear, nose and throat surgeries
- A young patient underwent a cleft pallet repair.
- Several mental health services have been accessed including for the treatment of eating disorders.





Adopt a  
**ROOM**

# IMPACT REPORT

Bonnie Evans



**LENGTH OF STAY: 252 NIGHTS OVER 32 STAYS**

**HOMETOWN: KALIMMA, VICTORIA**

**PROGRAMS USED: Monash House**

Tiny Bonnie was eager to make an entrance into the world. Born at just 27 weeks, Bonnie initially stayed at the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Monash Children's Hospital, until one week before her due date. Understandably, Keira-Lee and Ben, Bonnie's parents, were constantly anxious and didn't want to leave her side.

Thanks to Ronald McDonald House Monash, Keira-Lee and Ben were able to stay within walking distance of the hospital, giving them respite from the clinical ward, and a room to sleep in. Run by a team of compassionate staff and volunteers, the Houses help families maintain connections, and provide opportunities to meet other families facing similar situations. They also help with emotional and financial support.

Keira-Lee was able to stay for the full length of Bonnie's stay – close to 12 weeks – and Ben could travel back and forth from the family home in Kalimna, near Lakes Entrance, a four hour drive from the hospital. It made weekend trips much less stressful and took a little pressure off.

During her stay in hospital, Bonnie also suffered a minor brain bleed and had sepsis, both of which she recovered from, without any complications. "Ronald McDonald House was a life saver. If it wasn't for the House we would have been in trouble. We were able to stay close to Bonnie's bedside, just a few steps away from the hospital," said Keira-Lee. "We would have had to have rented a house to be close to Bonnie's side, which would have cost us a small fortune. "We also met other families who were going through similar situations. It was nice to be in the company of other families and staff who knew what we were going through and it was an incredibly supportive environment," she said. The welcome, kindness and care that is offered at Ronald McDonald House Monash is the same across all Houses – helping keep families close so they can weather their battles together.

*"Honestly, we don't know what we would have done if it wasn't for Ronald McDonald House"- Keira-Lee , Bonnie's mother*