



MS
SYDNEY TO
THE
GONG
2019

"THANK YOU FOR RIDING FOR ME..."

YOUR RIDE TO FIGHT MS

Hi Rider,

What does riding to fight MS actually mean?

It means you're riding to *support* **people living with multiple sclerosis.**

It means the funds *you raise* will help ensure people living with MS have access to the vital services they need. To ensure they're not fighting MS alone.

Multiple sclerosis is the most common neurological disease affecting young people in Australia.

Aaron Taylor rode in the MS Ride last year because he loved to cycle. He hadn't put a huge amount of thought into what the ride actually meant, and who he was riding for...

It turned out, he was riding for his own wife.

Meet Michelle Taylor...

Michelle's battle with MS began in an unbelievable way.

It all started when Michelle broke her ankle in December 2017. After it healed, she then broke it again in December 2018. After each break, she found walking very difficult.

With two young children, Michelle was relying on the help of strangers to help her get to and from her car after school drop-off.



She also had some other symptoms, that couldn't be linked to her broken ankle...

Michelle was suffering from slurred speech, blurred vision and was unable to perform simple daily tasks such as using a pen to write a shopping list.

She eventually saw a neurologist, who suggested these symptoms were due to an auto-immune condition called Hashimotos disease, and prescribed her a 6 month course of steroids.

A few weeks later, Michelle was taking her father to a neurologist for his own Guillain–Barré syndrome.

At this stage, the steroids hadn't been helping, so Michelle was using walking sticks to help her get around.

To her surprise her father's neurologist told Michelle he would like to check her out too...

Michelle was immediately sent for an MRI, which revealed that she had MS.

Suddenly, all the symptoms Michelle had been experiencing for the last 2 years made sense. She had put her inability to walk down to her broken ankle, but it had been the first sign of MS.



Michelle at one of her monthly infusions.

There is **no cure** for MS, and the symptoms are very unpredictable... which means Michelle has to take things day by day.

Some days, Michelle is unable to walk.

Her symptoms lessen and worsen depending on the week, but she is taking control and trying to live as normally as possible.

Michelle undergoes regular infusions to help relieve her symptoms. She also trains at a gym and is working on getting fit and strong!

This means she's able to live as normally as possible... bike riding and taking her children to swimming lessons.



This year, Michelle will be at the finish line, cheering on her husband Aaron as he rides again and aims to raise \$25,000 to fight MS!

And this time, it's **personal**.



To say thank you for taking on this challenge, Michelle has a message for you...

'Thank you SO much for riding to fight MS. Watching Aaron cross the finish line has taken on a new meaning for me since I was diagnosed.

So this year, I'll be there, cheering EVERY rider across the finish line.

Because your support means I'm not fighting this battle alone. Thank you.

You're awesome!!

With your help, we can reach our goal of \$3,250,000 to ensure no one has to fight MS alone.



PS. [Click here](#) to share your fundraising page on Facebook and kick-start your efforts to fight MS!

PPS. You can follow Michelle's MS journey [here](#).



#MSGongRide

