

The Stratton Family's Story

Ella and Jarrod lost their beautiful boy Hunter 3 years ago at age 12. After a normal pregnancy and delivery, Hunter had his first seizure at just 8 weeks of age. Doctors were never able to clearly diagnose the cause of Hunter's illness. For the last 3 years of his life, Hunter was under the care of the Palliative Care team at the Women's and Children's Hospital in Adelaide. To admit that they needed palliative care for Hunter was one of the hardest decisions that Ella and Jarrod had to make, but once they started to receive the care from the team, it was an enormous relief. As Ella describes it, "the weight was lifted off our shoulders"

Ella and Jarrod are one of our family partners in the WCH Foundation Beach House project. They talk with passion about why it is so important to them, their families and the community.

"Our most treasured memories were our times away as a family, creating special moments. It can seem so hard and so much work to actually get away, but it is vitally important to look back on. These memories are so precious, memories of the fun good times, not the stress and heartache of hospital visits and doctors' appointments. To be a part of helping build the Beach House for families in the same heartbreaking situation we found ourselves in, is so important.

We were fortunate enough to have times away as a family and realise how vital this was for not only us, Hunter's parents, but also his brothers and our extended family. We want all families with children that have a shortened time here to have that opportunity, to pack the essentials and go, relax, have fun and enjoy precious time together, creating memories that last a lifetime."



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Ella Stratton, Mother