



CLEVER IDEAS
CHANGING LIVES

*Pictured above (left to right) Dad Josh White, Natasha White and Natalia White.
(This photo and others available in hi-res)*

Natasha's custom Freedom Wheels bike has been funded by generous Spring Cycle fundraisers. Now she is riding the Harbour Bridge with twin sister Natalia for this year's event. The sisters are now fundraising to help more kids living with disability have the chance to ride a bike.

Media Release - for immediate use

9 October 2018

Little Girls, Big Challenge!

This Sunday 8-year-old twins Natasha and Natalia are riding 10km in the Spring Financial Group Spring Cycle and fundraising to give children living with disability the chance to ride a bike.

At 20 weeks of pregnancy, parents Ljubica (Lou) and Josh learnt that their twin girls had Twin to Twin Transfusion Syndrome. Immediate surgery was conducted but as a side effect, Natasha had a stroke. Mum, Lou tells the story:

"At 30 weeks I was given the option of terminating my pregnancy. I said No! We saw a neurologist and he painted the picture of what Natasha's disability would look like.

Today Natasha is a happy, sensitive and loving 8-year-old girl. She lives with Cerebral Palsy which affects the right side of her body, but she keeps up with her twin sister Natalia.

We live near the Botanical Gardens in Picton which has a lovely, big bike track where many kids and families ride together.

Josh would take our eldest daughter Lily and Natalia for rides through the park. Because of her disability Natasha couldn't steer or grip the handlebars of a standard bike and she always missed out on this activity.

Back in May Natasha's therapist referred us to Freedom Wheels. We came to an assessment and Natasha was fitted for a special bike that met her needs.

Natasha was so happy that day, it was the first time she could ride independently!

After the assessment, Natasha kept asking us, "When am I going to get a bike, when am I going to get it?" I just had to keep saying soon but we couldn't access funding through NDIS.



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Last Month we received a surprise call from Freedom Wheels. I couldn't believe what I was hearing, Natasha's bike had been funded by donations from Spring Cycle riders!

A week later Natasha had her bike! It was so good to see her riding with her sisters, I was in tears.

Now her life will change! Natasha will be able to join in! This will help her to bond with her sisters and feel included, especially with dad. Natasha is very much a daddy's girl.

This Sunday Natasha and Natalia are riding the Harbour Bridge with dad Josh and sister Lily to help raise funds so that more kids living with disability will have the chance to ride a bike," said Ljubica.

People can donate to Natasha's challenge and leave a message of support at www.justgiving.com/natashafreedomwheels

For more information about Freedom Wheels custom bikes, visit freedomwheels.org.au or call 1300 663 243.

#ends

About Freedom Wheels:

Freedom Wheels is a national service where skilled staff and volunteers work closely with children, families and therapists to create customised bicycles.

Each Freedom Wheels bike is tailored to the child's height and weight as well as physical and cognitive abilities. Our customised supports give children with disabilities the confidence and freedom to ride a bike.

Children ride their Freedom Wheels bike with family and friends, at local parks and at school. They ride for fun, improved wellbeing and social and community participation.

Visit www.freedomwheels.org.au or call 1300 663 243 for more information.

Media Enquiries

For more information, interviews or photo opportunities, please contact:
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