



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Community Recognition Statement

14 October 2020

ASHLEIGH RANCE AND SOPHIE PENN

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend) :

The diagnosis of a lifelong chronic illness can be devastating, particularly for children in their formative years.

For 12 year old Sophie Penn and 11 year old Ashleigh Rance, that transition has been a little easier since becoming friends and support for one another.

Sophie and Ashleigh were both diagnosed only months apart last year with the autoimmune condition called ulcerative colitis. Every eight weeks the girls visit the Children's Hospital in Newcastle for intravenous therapy.

Behind the smile though, when their disease is active, they are faced with abdominal pain, anaemia, weakness, slowed growth, bleeding, weight loss and at times cannot attend school. The girls are facing their challenges together. They line up their intravenous therapy appointments so they are in hospital on the same day.

In May this year, the pair dyed their hair purple to raise money for Crohn's and colitis. They ended up raising \$1,796.

In September, Ashleigh and Sophie put on their sneakers to walk or run 150kms as part of the Live Fearless Challenge! They raised \$2141.

Well done Ashleigh and Sophie on your fundraising efforts and raising awareness of Crohn's and colitis.