

# Supporting neonatal families and their babies



## WHY WE EXIST

Every 90 minutes in New Zealand a baby is born that requires specialist care.

The Neonatal Trust exists to support families going through the stress and anxiety of a neonatal journey, and to support the enhanced care of their precious premature and/or sick babies.

The examples below fit with our objectives to:

1. Support neonatal families through the stress and anxiety of their journey
2. Fund neonatal research to increase understanding and enhance outcomes
3. Support the neonatal units and their staff so the babies receive the best care possible



**1 IN 10 BABIES**  
are born premature



**SPECIALIST CARE**  
Many more require specialist care due to serious health issues or complications



**5,000+**  
Overall, 5000+ babies are cared for in a neonatal unit EVERY YEAR

## HOW WE HELP

We provide support in a number of different ways. Examples include:



La-Z-Boys for parents to use for 'Kangaroo cuddles' and general comfort.



Supporting research into enhanced care and understanding.



Equipment to support the care, monitoring and feeding of neonatal babies.

# Cameron's story, A World Cup Miracle



***Think you understand stress and anxiety?  
Here's a sample from Deanna Sigmunds story of son  
Cameron arriving 16 weeks early:***

***We began our journey with the Wellington Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at 6.46pm on Thursday 13 May 2010, when our son Cameron Michael Roy Sigmund was delivered by c-section at 24 weeks weighing just 715 grams. I was wheeled one way, and my husband Ben and Cameron went the other.***



My first real memory of NICU, though blurry, was being wheeled through the double doors of the unit into what seemed like something out of Star Wars! I knew he would be little but if you have never seen a baby that small, nothing really prepares you for that moment.

## **A long journey had started**

There was constant care and monitoring for head bleeds, tubes for feeding and breathing, long lines leading from his leg to his heart for extra nutrients as well as IV lines for antibiotics and fluids. Ben and I felt so helpless, day in and day out. No cuddles or kisses, just our hands lightly cocooning his fragile transparent body whilst the hospital tried to mimic the conditions of him still being in the womb.

A week after Cameron was born, Ben had to make the gut wrenching decision to leave Cameron and me and get on a plane to South Africa where he would be representing New Zealand as an All White. This moment for Ben was very bittersweet. The weeks that followed Ben's departure were full of emails, text messages and phone calls detailing Cameron's progress, or lack of . . .

**For more information, and to read the rest of  
Cameron's story, head to**

**[www.neonataltrust.org.nz/siggy](http://www.neonataltrust.org.nz/siggy)**

## **FULLY COMMITTED**

The Ben Sigmund story

\$1.00 from each book goes to The Neonatal Trust

**[www.fullycommitted.co.nz](http://www.fullycommitted.co.nz)**

