



A breath of fresh air for sufferers

Device brought relief during Kerry's last days

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A PORTABLE oxygen machine gave Kerry Pattinson freedom and a "new lease of life" before she died from cancer in April.

Now her portable oxygen machine will give other palliative-care patients in Mackay the same freedom she experienced.

Instead of being housebound, Kerry spent time visiting Western Australian wineries with her husband and watching the musical *Wicked* with her daughters in Melbourne.

Mick Pattinson, Kerry's husband, said the equipment gave her a "new lease of life".

"The middle of last year we went to Western Australia and spent some time at the wineries around Margaret River," Mr Pattinson said.

"I travel when I work and Kerry was able to come with me."

Robyn Devantier described Kerry as her best friend and she

helped raise money, through family and friends, to purchase the machine, which is valued at more than \$6000.

"Kerry was researching on the internet and she said she would like to have this machine that made its own oxygen that would be more portable than what she was using... but the cost was pretty prohibitive," Ms Devantier said.

Ms Devantier took her own initiative and when the family was away at a cancer retreat she sent an email out to friends and family asking for help.

By Christmas that year Robyn had the oxygen machine bought and wrapped up with a bow.

"Kerry rang me and burst into tears on the phone, she was so happy and shocked," Ms Devantier said.

"People were so generous we ended up with having more money than we needed. Kerry used the extra money to fly her kids home from Brissy."

The Pattinson family has now decided to donate the expensive equipment to the Mackay Hospital Foundation.

"We had a meeting with the Mackay Hospital Foundation and they explained to us who would use the equipment and how it would be looked after."

Mackay Hospital Foundation manager Mayte Sanchez said the charity welcomed the donation.

"Mackay Hospital Foundation supports the Mackay Base Hospital loan equipment pool, which sits with cancer services and occupational therapy," she said.

"And this is especially for people suffering from cancer and palliative-care patients.

"Palliative-care patients are usually in the last three months of their lives.

"This equipment gives patients quality of life at home."



LEGACY: Kerry Pattinson was able to have quality of life until she died. PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED



KIND DONATION: With the oxygen machine at Mackay Base Hospital are (from left) Mick Pattinson, Stephanie Pattinson, Gemma Melius, David Pattinson, Cassandra Pattinson and Robyn Devantier.

PHOTO: PETER HOLT