From ‘He might not wake up’ to going on a fishing trip with mates:

How Warren regained his independence after a catastrophic vehicle accident

“I found someone who truly cares for Warren. With the package All About Caring delivered, it was clear it was all planned and ready. It was truly reassuring, and I knew they were ready for it.”

Leonie, Warren’s mum

A Case Study

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In 2019, 37-year-old father, Warren, experienced a catastrophic vehicle accident that left him with a traumatic brain injury. For the better part of eight months, Warren remained in a comatose state, a period during which his mother, Leonie, clung to the hope of a miracle.

"They kept telling me he might not wake up and if he did, he might not walk or talk ever again."

Guided by the compassionate doctors at the Liverpool Brain Injury Unit, Warren's journey to recovery unfolded gradually. Starting with his emergence from the coma, followed by the painstaking process of reducing and eventually removing his tracheotomy. From that point forward, the path to recovery involved relearning the essentials of life – walking, talking, eating, showering – all over again.

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The Challenge

As the day came closer for Warren's anticipated discharge, the NSW government organisation icare coordinated the allied health team responsible for guiding him through this transition and his ongoing recovery. Leonie faced an important decision about who she would entrust with her son's care.

For Warren's at-home care and NDIS program support, Leonie eventually settled on All About Caring as their care provider. The reason behind her decision was clear - the organisation was genuinely all about Warren. It was precisely what Leonie had been seeking, for it was Warren who needed unwavering support and dedication to overcome the challenges ahead.

"The focus on Warren held paramount importance for me because he's the one who has to go through it all. He's the one who must work with these people," Leonie explained, emphasising the significance of prioritising her son's well-being in the journey ahead.

Moreover, Leonie appreciated the respect and integrity with which she was treated throughout the entire interview process. There was no condescension, just straightforward communication and an immediate plan of action. It gave her the assurance that they were genuinely prepared to care for Warren.

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All About Caring in action

- *Facilitate the upskilling of support worker to ensure safe support for Warren.*
- *Identify and onboard suitable support workers for Warren's needs.*
- *Collaborate in various interdisciplinary case conferences with Warren's treatment team.*
- *Establish a consistent team of support workers.*
- *Support Warren's independent living in his own residence.*
- *Foster and sustain efficient two-way communication.*

The dedicated support workers from All About Caring play a pivotal role in Warren's weekly routine, with days filled with outings like ten-pin bowling and bike rides as well as the therapy he needs. His day typically begins with breakfast, followed by a 30-minute session on the exercise bike. Afterwards, they engage in various activities, such as card games and backgammon, adding a touch of normalcy to his life.

Excitingly, Warren is on the brink of embarking on his very first independent holiday this year. The getaway will be a mate's weekend with a supportive entourage from All About Caring. He'll be meeting old friends, fishing, enjoying barbecues and seeing the local sights. Warren even plans to cook his mum, Leonie, a surprise dinner when he returns.

All About Caring's support has empowered Warren to live with a remarkable degree of independence despite his ongoing challenges, enriching his life in countless ways.

The Transition to Independence

Leone initially hoped Warren would return to the family home, believing it would be in his best interests.

She wasn't too keen on the idea of having 24/7 outside care for Warren because she thought she could manage that herself. However, the team at All About Caring worked closely with her, helping her gradually let go of some of the apron strings she had wrapped around her son.

Warren himself had also thought about going back to live at his mum's house since it sounded so comforting and familiar.

In the beginning, Leonie still took on tasks like grocery shopping and bringing food over, which the support care team could handle.

All About Caring worked with Leonie to build her confidence in letting those tasks go, which was a significant part of their support.

Now, they manage everything, taking the burden off her shoulders.

It has also allowed her to look after her grandkids, easing her worries when leaving Warren in their care.

Leonie expresses her immense gratitude for the care team, highlighting how they have made her feel more at ease and confident that everything is going well.

While initially hesitant about Warren living more independently, Leonie now says how things have turned out is great. She believes that if Warren had come home, it would have been overwhelming for both of them.

With Warren having his own house and a dedicated team of carers, he has the opportunity to lead a fulfilling life.

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What sets All About Caring apart

Respect

"Respect is how I was treated during the interview and planning process with All About Caring. The rehabilitation plan was ready for him, and it showed me that they respect us by already having it ready. Every step has been wonderful."

Communication

"I'm not the type to ring in all the time and will only do it if absolutely necessary. But when I have All About Caring, get back to me straight away, no waiting. Five minutes and what I've asked for is already done and sent back to me; they're on top of it!"

Confidence

"All About Caring has just taken a lot of pressure off me and made me feel more at ease and confident that I can leave Warren without worrying."

"The support workers are amazing; they look after him so well. I'm so thankful and reassured that everything will be okay."

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Leonie’s advice to other families engaging support for a family member:

"Definitely give it a go. There are a lot of things that in your heart you think you can do, but sometimes you just can't. Warren does activities now that he never would’ve done if I was his sole caregiver. He's come so far, and I'm really happy for him."

"From someone who was not supposed to wake up, he's done amazing. And he wouldn't have done it without All About Caring."