

# SY'S STORY

**D**on't be surprised if one day you have to address 10-year-old Syel as "Sergeant!" Inspired by his hero Sergeant Mick McCrann from the Channel 7 TV show *Highway Patrol*, Sy's dream is to be a policeman when he grows up.

Before Sy was born, an ultrasound revealed he had a brain cyst and at just three months old, Sy had an operation to insert a shunt to drain the cerebral spinal fluid from his brain. He endured two further brain surgeries as a young boy.

His mum Lisa said: "Sy was later diagnosed with autism and has learning difficulties. But he's the first to help out others and has such a strong sense of empathy."

Two years ago, life changed immeasurably for this happy, caring little boy when he suffered a major seizure. He was rushed to hospital where he was diagnosed with Complex Epilepsy. The shock was unimaginable for the close-knit family.

Sy's life of bike riding, soccer and laughing with his friends was replaced by fear, uncertainty and long stays in hospital.

The biggest impact on family life were the long, exhausting days in hospital. Lisa or Feras (Sy's Dad) always stayed overnight in hospital which was hard on Sy's older sisters Grace and Adelaide.

That's why the Starlight Express Room is so important. When Sy's in hospital, the Starlight Express Room is a place where he can be a kid again without worrying about his illness. And his sisters and grandmas can visit too!



Lisa said Starlight has been a vital part of Sy's recovery – physically, emotionally and psychologically.

“Starlight is there like a ray of sunshine in what can be the darkest and scariest times in a child's and their family's life.”

—Lisa, Sy's mum.

Thanks to our supporters, another ray of sunshine has brightened Sy's life. He was granted his Starlight Wish, which was our 10,000th Starlight Wish!

Sy's wish was to be a policeman alongside his hero Sergeant Mick McCrann.

Lisa said Sy couldn't contain his happiness when they told him. "His face exploded with excitement and he said: "I'm going to meet Mick McCrann, how cool is that!"

Sy's wish was an unforgettable week-long adventure. After training with the AFP, Sy met his hero Sergeant Mick McCrann and learnt all about what it's like to be a police officer.

Sy was officially welcomed into the Victoria Police Force as 'Sergeant Sy.' The force's newest recruit was ready to tackle crime and had his dad in his sights! In a highlight of the week, 'Sergeant Sy' pulled his dad over and charged him with the very serious crime of not buying him an ice cream!

Sy's Starlight Wish was a life-long dream come true and gave his family so many happy memories to treasure forever.



For more information visit [starlight.org.au](http://starlight.org.au)  
or call 1300 727 827

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