

GUS' STORY

All the fun of motocross came to a sudden halt for quiet and selfless ten-year-old Gus when doctors diagnosed him with Wilson's Disease in early 2019.

The rare genetic condition has led to chronic liver failure, unstable blood glucose levels and low-bone density.

As a result, Gus' day-to-day activities are now very different to what they were. He can no longer race his beloved motorbike or play contact sports and is often too unwell to go to school.

Following his diagnosis, Gus transitions between the Royal Darwin Hospital, the Women and Children's Hospital in Adelaide and the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne.

The disease leaves Gus exhausted. He has to fast for four hours each day for his medication and follow a strict low copper diet.

"We have to be more prepared when leaving the house with supplies of food, water and medications including two different needles. Gus is always tired, so managing what we do and when, has become a challenge as he isn't able to do as much as he used to do," mum Lisa said.

Thankfully, amid all the pain and sadness, Gus and his parents have Starlight.



Gus spends time in hospital frequently for infusions



Gus with his parents during his Starlight Wish at the Melbourne Supercross

Gus never misses a chance to visit the Starlight Express Room when he's hospitalised, looking forward to the moment the room opens and being able to play games with Captain Starlight.

"Starlight dramatically helps with kids' mental health and putting them in a good mood to tackle whatever they have to face in hospital," Lisa said.

There was more excitement coming Gus' way when he was referred for his Starlight Wish.

His wish was to go to the final of the Supercross Aus-X Open in Melbourne.

Planning his wish gave Gus something to look forward to and helped boost his mood.

Wearing his personalised race kit, Gus arrived at Marvel Stadium with his parents, aunt and uncle, ready for an unforgettable day of supercross fun. Gus watched all the thrills track-side, then got to meet champion riders Ricky Carmichael, Chad Reed and Jett Lawrence.

The highlight of the day was Gus riding a hot lap of the track with Chad in front thousands of cheering fans!

Lisa is so thankful to Starlight supporters.

“Starlight puts smiles on really sick kids' faces and helps and supports families. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.”

—Lisa, Gus' mum

For more information visit starlight.org.au or call 1300 727 827