

## STATEMENT OF NINA PARKER

4 December 2022

To whom it may concern,

My name is Nina and I have been assisting Sam and Cole for the last two weeks to find directed blood donors for Will. I know Sam and Cole personally and was aware that they were in Starship Hospital due to medical complications with Will. I became aware of their desire for directed donations from a post on social media on 19th November, and contacted Sam the same day.

After discussing with her, I decided to support the administrative efforts to find the donors. A team of key support people was developed and it is with this team, and the goodwill of the New Zealand public that we have achieved such a massive donor response.

My actions over the time from the 19<sup>th</sup> November to today include the below:

- Communication with Sam (usually every 1 to 2 days) on updates, their needs and the developing situation to allow accurate relay of information.
- Posting updates designed for sharing of the situation to support accurate information disbursement and find directed donors.
- Development of a donor list of 'probable' matches who would need blood screening.
- Research on New Zealand Blood Service (NZBS) documents to identify accurate requirements for paediatric donors.
- Responding to hundreds of messages, by all mediums, of offers of donation which often included several phone calls per person.
- Supported administrative elements of completing directed donation forms.

As offers of directed donation reached me, I worked through them to firstly clarify blood type and confirm if they met the NZBS eligibility criteria quiz on the NZBS website. We also received multiple indications that paediatric donors could only be men, so to be on the safe side, we narrowed our search criteria to this end. For the record, this sifting of donors also included common sense vetting such as trustworthiness, medications and other such factors that may affect Will.

It should be noted that in almost all cases the work involved in becoming a donor was significant, and included hours of personal work and research, relaying information back and forward between doctors to ensure the correct screening. By nature, this work also removed those who were not genuine in their efforts.

Once we had a more refined list of donors, the team set about having donor blood screened for eligibility for Will's requirements. Once screened, we enlisted a Medical Doctor to view the bloodwork and advise if there were any barriers to donation. There were many questions and

challenges to this process, and I, with others in the team, worked through these challenges with each person to ensure they were screened both correctly, and quickly.

I am providing this statement out of concern for a sense of incorrect information that seems to be discussed publicly in media and even globally. When I told Sam that I had a 'donor' lined up for Will and ready to go, I meant, a donor who has been through the following process:

1. Vetted for the criteria
2. Met all these criteria
3. Been screened to the paediatric standard described in the NZBS Transfusion Medicine Handbook Third Edition 2016
4. Had those results cleared as suitable for donation by a doctor of medicine

**The above vetting process for directed donors ensured that to the best of our ability the blood being offered as an alternative for Will by Sam and Cole is as safe and effective as the blood being offered by NZBS and in no way carried additional risks.**

I attest that the entire process to find and refine directed donors for Will has been a tremendous effort by the New Zealand public. To even find the right people, the request for donors needed to be shared robustly by the public. We have received messages of support from all areas of New Zealand within hours of the message going out. Personally, I have found the show of support from the New Zealand public for the parents, incredible and feel that it accurately represents what I know of New Zealanders – that we can rise to meet any challenge, we are a nation that cares for each other, and that we are incredibly interconnected.

Kind regards

Nina Parker