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## After a tough start, look at Grace now

Knox Leader, Melbourne

Page 1 of 1

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**Peter Andrews**

Boronia dad

Mid last year our daughter Grace was born by emergency C-section at 35 weeks. Two days later she had surgery at Monash Children's Hospital to remove a blockage in her bowel. She ended up having two thirds of her bowel removed as it had not properly developed during pregnancy. Through additional complications, Grace ended up having a total of three surgeries on her bowel and we spent 145 days at the Monash Children's Hospital.

During this time Life's Little Treasures gave us a community to talk to; people with similar circumstances.

Everyone in the hospital is going through their own battles every day and it's very hard to approach another parent, to offer support or talk to one another. We found the morning teas that were run at the hospital by the foundation gave us this opportunity to meet everyone and gave us a reprieve from the cotside vigil.

A pack containing critical information for us and our family was also provided.

It was a very challenging time, but this support enabled us to navigate this overwhelming experience.

We are taking part in the Walk for Prems event on October 27 to support the foundation.



Peter and Melissa celebrating their daughter Grace's first birthday in July.