



My beautiful
wife...

... and
mother to
our children



This is Jade's story



Sometimes you can be very lucky in life and find that one very special person who you connect with and know you want to be with forever.

That person was my wife Jade. A mother to our three beautiful children, my soul mate for life.

I remember the first time I saw Jade. We were in high-school together. We sat next to each other in home economics in Year 8. She was my best mate throughout high-school. We even went travelling throughout Europe together immediately after we finished school. We left as best mates and came back as a couple madly in love.

We married in 2009. That was one of the happiest days of my life. To be with my partner and soul mate, to know that I would grow old with her, to spend our days watching our children grow up.

Jade loved her job as a nurse at Austin Health. She had been with the Austin since 2004. Nursing was her thing. She was a great nurse, very caring, good with people and great at her job.

In 2012 we welcomed our first child - Roy - into the world. And then in 2014, twins Grace and Eve were born. We were a happy family and fortunate to have the support of parents, siblings, aunts, uncles and cousins to help look after our babies.

As Jade was preparing to return to work after the births of Grace and Eve she started to feel unwell.



She was getting worse and finally went to the Austin for tests.

I don't think anything can ever prepare you for when you are told your wife, your soul mate, has cancer.

In March 2016, our world came crashing down. Jade was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukaemia. I knew we were in good hands at the ONJ Cancer Centre. But still being told your wife has cancer - it's tough. I was really lucky to have a very understanding boss who gave me time off to care for Jade and the kids.



Jade underwent chemotherapy. After two rounds she was in remission. We all felt joy and relief. But it didn't last long. By November, her cancer had returned. Again, we went back to the ONJ Cancer Centre. Dr Andrew Lim and Professor Andrew Grigg were just fantastic. In fact, everyone at the ONJ Cancer Centre were absolutely amazing!



Although Jade came home for Christmas, she was still very sick. So by January she was admitted back to the ONJ Cancer Centre to undergo a stem cell transplant. We really had hoped she would beat it this time. And in February she came home - once again it seemed she had defeated cancer.

But our joy and happiness was not to last long. In early May 2017, Jade had a biopsy of her bone marrow. The cancer was back.

The ONJ Cancer Centre staff did everything they could to help Jade. They did everything humanly possible to get her better but unfortunately the treatments didn't work. I'll appreciate them forever. They're just amazing how they all go about it, caring for people like Jade.

Jade has left a huge hole in my heart and in my life. I've lost my soulmate. It's worst when the kids are in bed, the house is quiet, that's when it hits me.

It's been nearly 10 months and we're slowly ticking off the one year anniversary things. Christmas and New Year were pretty bad, we've had the first kids' birthdays since Jade died, and from what I've been told things will get a bit easier after the first year. I don't think too far into the future at the moment.

The ONJ Cancer Centre is a really beautiful place. But the staff there need our help. They really want to make sure every patient can go home, can be healthy once again. They want to be able to continue to give the very best care to people like my wife Jade.

Please, whatever you can do, help the Centre. I believe we can end cancer in our lifetime, in my children's lifetime. Please support the ONJ Cancer Centre today. Thank you for reading my story.

Matt Manning

