

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New book helps children with a rare disorder

Sunshine Coast, Queensland – 24 July 2012. Mount Coolum resident Sarah Gray has written a children's book based on her daughter Bella's journey to a diagnosis of an eosinophilic gastrointestinal disorder (EGID) – eosinophilic oesophagitis. The book titled 'Meet Arabella' is the first of its kind in to be published in Australia and will be officially launched during National EOS Awareness Week 12-18 August.

"I wrote this book so that children like Bella wouldn't have to go through life feeling they are the only ones living with this rare disorder and that they can hopefully find some comfort in reading a similar story to their own personal journey" said Sarah.

Sarah Gray is a mother of two children and the Founder and President of ausEE Inc. - a charity dedicated to improving lives affected by eosinophilic disorders.

"We were fortunate to gain the support of Peter Carnavas, who donated his services and time to illustrate the book, bringing the words to life in a beautiful and charming way" said Sarah.

The book has been published by the charity thanks to grant funding they received from the QUT Staff Community Welfare Fund and the Gambling Community Benefit Fund. The books have already been distributed to over 1,000 hospitals and medical professionals around the country.

Eosinophilic oEsophagitis (EoE) makes eating food difficult for many children. Sarah's own child, Bella now receives most of her nutrition through a gastrostomy feeding tube. This book follows the journey to diagnosis from Arabella's first visit to the doctor when she is feeling 'bubbles' in her throat and 'rumbles' in her tummy to the many medical professionals she and her family meet along the way; a paediatrician, gastroenterologist, anaesthetist, allergist and a dietitian. The book is intended for young readers and for parents to read to their children; any child who has faced a medical journey could relate to Arabella's story.

'Meet Arabella' is available for sale through the charity's online gift shop at www.ausee.org.

For more information about 'Meet Arabella' (ISBN 9780646561387), please contact Sarah Gray by emailing admin@ausee.org.

