Rare illness sparks book

A NEW book by Sunshine Coast author Sarah Gray sheds light on the effects of rare eosinophilic diseases through fictional children's character Anabella.

The book was inspired by her own daughter Bella who has lived with the condition since she was 18 months old.

The disease occurs when eosinophils, a type of white blood cell, are found in above-normal amounts in the gastrointestinal tract. The eosinophils can accumulate in the gut in response to food or airborne allergens and can cause inflammation and tissue damage.

The book seeks to help children struggling to understand the disorder and make them realise that they are not alone.

"It makes them feel more normal to know that someone exists like them," Mrs Gray said.

An official book launch will be held Maroochydore Library on Saturday to coincide with National EOS Week this week.

- CHRISTIE LENZ