



A heart-warming story of a boy and his Assistance Dog during isolation

We hope that you are coping well with self-isolation. We must stay positive and hang on to the hope that life will return to normal soon.

For Byron, his loyal, cheeky Assistance Dog Zeus is helping him through the disruption that Coronavirus has brought to all our lives.

Byron was born with Down syndrome and has a secondary diagnosis of Autism. He is non-verbal, but has a few words and uses key word sign.

His mum, Christina, told Assistance Dogs Australia recently about how they are coping in this age of lockdown:

“Because of Coronavirus, we have stayed home, same as everybody. All Byron’s appointments and sessions have been cancelled which was so hard for Byron to understand.

In a normal week, Byron goes to school, goes swimming, plays basketball and goes to dance class.

Usually, Byron also has physio once a week, speech therapy once a fortnight, and occupational therapy once a fortnight. We use Zeus in our OT sessions, he was helping Byron to learn how to use buttons. Byron has to button a scarf around Zeus’s neck.

Byron loves music. Musical theatre and live shows so a lot of these were cancelled. Zeus comes to all our shows as well.”



Byron and his family are so grateful that Zeus is there to help the family through this uncertain time. Zeus has helped Byron increase his communication skills and reduce his anxiety.

Zeus' unwavering loyalty and love has also been a huge help. Christina said:

"The sad part is as for isolation this has not been much different as Byron has no friends that visit and he never gets asked to visit any friends, so he knows no different. Zeus is Byron's best friend and companion."



Supporters like you are the reason why Byron has Zeus. Your generosity is hard at work in the community, and our supporters will continue making an impact on Byron's life as he grows up with Zeus.

Christina wanted to tell you how thankful she is for your support:

"We will be forever grateful to Assistance Dogs Australia for bringing Zeus into Byron's life BUT we also sincerely would like to thank people like yourselves who give so freely and continually year after year. These donations make a bigger difference than you may ever know, so THANK YOU for your continued support."

Thank you so much for supporting Assistance Dogs Australia. Kindness truly changes lives, and it is that heart-warming thought that makes our day brighter. We hope it has done the same for you.

From the team at Assistance Dogs Australia