

# Help her find a cure



Annette Farrugia is organising a gala ball to raise money to help people like her son Dylan, who has a genetic immune deficiency.

Picture: DAVID SMITH

Kellie Cameron

## MOTHER ORGANISES CHARITY BALL FOR IMMUNE-DEFICIENT SON

KINGS Park's Annette Farrugia has lost two loved ones to a genetic disorder that has also been passed down to her son and nephews.

She is organising a gala ball at Taylors Lakes to raise awareness of and money for a foundation supporting people with primary immune deficiencies, and is asking locals to attend. Immune deficiencies are

caused by defects in genes controlling the immune system.

People with the disorders are more susceptible to infections, which can damage vital organs. Treatment involves regular antibody replacement therapy.

Mrs Farrugia's family is affected by an extremely rare primary immune

deficiency called X-linked agammaglobulinaemia.

Her brother, who had the disorder, died months after having a double lung transplant. A nephew died waiting for one. Mrs Farrugia's son, six nephews and one great nephew have also been diagnosed with the disorder affecting only males. Females are the carriers.

She said her son Dylan, 21, had his first antibiotic infusion aged just six weeks old. He has been hospitalised countless times with infections, and required life-saving infusions every three weeks.

Mrs Farrugia hoped her fundraiser for Immune Deficiencies Foundation Australia would contribute to

finding a cure for what she described as a "horrendous" genetic disorder.

The Immune Deficiencies Foundation Australia annual gala ball, Touch of Elegance, is on April 11, 6.30pm, at Lakeside Banquet and Convention Centre.

For tickets or to donate door prizes, phone 0409 945 114.