



## **The Hon Ken Wyatt AM, MP**

**Minister for Aged Care  
Minister for Indigenous Health  
Member for Hasluck**

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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#### **A Brave Young Dad's Lifesaving Message for all Australians**

A heartbreaking video message has been released today, realising Jason Bartlett's dying wish to raise awareness of the importance of men taking personal responsibility for their health.

The 36 year old singer, songwriter and former television music show star recorded the video nine days before he passed away in Royal Perth Hospital in June, from complications of diabetes and obesity, leading to heart and kidney failure.

Indigenous Health Minister Ken Wyatt AM paid tribute to his cousin's bravery, talent, compassion and legacy.

"In 2009, Jason made it through to the Top 24 on Australian Idol and continued his career after the show, writing, recording and performing with the popular Bartlett Brothers band," Minister Wyatt said.

"We lost Jason shortly after he made the brave but agonising decision to cease dialysis. His final words are haunting and hard-hitting and ones he wanted every Australian to hear.

"His vision was always to change the world for the better through his music but his dream became to get the health message out."

In the video, titled "Passing on Wisdom: Jason's Diabetes Story", the father of two tells how he was diagnosed with diabetes at 19 years of age. A combination of lack of health education and ignoring the danger signs gradually lead to a tragic sequence of chronic conditions that eventually took his sight and his mobility.

"Jason strongly but humbly tells it like it is," said Minister Wyatt. "There is no self-pity, just heartfelt statements of fact that apply to all Australians.

"He pleads for everyone to re-think alcohol and drug use, including a special message for our Indigenous mob.

"His words should be heeded by everyone but also reinforce my top Indigenous health priorities: Men's health, kidney, eye and ear health, maternal and child health and reducing preventable hospital admissions."

His key message is for everybody, especially men, to look after themselves, so they can be there for their families and friends for as long as possible.

“He wants all of us to take personal responsibility, listen to our loved ones and take advice from doctors and health professionals,” said the Minister.

“Jason says that looking after ourselves is an essential part of giving love to those around us.

“All of us are privileged to have shared in his amazing life and now we’re determined to share his quest to save the lives of others, through his message.

“If it can help just one person to make life-changing choices, Australia will be better for it, but I am sure his story will help many more consider changes that will lengthen and potentially save their lives.

“I’m joining with Jason’s family in encouraging everyone to watch his video, listen to his story and share it on social media, especially with those you love.”

The video was produced by Jason Bartlett’s family, the University of Western Australia’s WA Centre for Rural Health, and media organisation Health Communication Resources.

It can be shared from the WA Centre for Rural Health’s YouTube channel, at <https://youtu.be/RcbQmLeDTs> with a subtitled version at <https://youtu.be/TvC1Tv6Z6zU>

**Media contact: Nick Way, Media Adviser 0419 835 449**