



**“In some way I can help autistic kids even when I’m not around. It makes me so proud.”**

*—Dr Rhonda Greensill*

# GP’s legacy will live on

**By MAREE BUTTERWORTH**

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THE commitment of Toowoomba medico Dr Rhonda Greensill to helping children with autism will continue, even though she will not be around to witness it.

Dr Greensill, 41, formerly a general practitioner at Iona House Medical Centre, was diagnosed with lung cancer in January.

She said her prognosis was “terrible” as the cancer was incurable.

The Toowoomba Autism Early Intervention Outcomes Unit was yesterday named in honour of Dr Greensill.

The centre will be known as The Rhonda Greensill Centre, AEIOU Toowoomba.

Dr Greensill did not want the focus of yesterday’s announcement to be about her ill health, but rather the quality of the facility.

The centre was opened in 2007 and became the first regional centre of its kind in Australia for children with autism.

Employees are qualified in speech pathology, occupational and musical therapy and early childhood education, which are made affordable for families.

Dr Greensill and her husband Wayne were told their son Lawson had autism when he was three.

“A door slammed in my face when I heard ‘your son will never be normal’,” she told a crowd of supporters and parents at the centre yesterday.

Through research, raising money and rallying for proper services, Dr Greensill was a key influence in establishing the centre.

AEIOU founder Dr James Morton said Dr Greensill was committed to improving the quality of life for children with autism.

Dr Greensill said Lawson, now 11, who has a twin, Amelia, was an inspiration to many.

“He is a legend. What he can do and what he does do, he’s an inspiration to Wayne and me.”

Dr Greensill said she treated each day as it came and spent as much time as she could with her family.

She said she was proud for her name to be associated with the centre.

“In some way I can help autistic kids even when I’m not around. It makes me so proud.”



**Dr Rhonda Greensill with her twins Lawson (left) and Amelia at The Rhonda Greensill Centre, AEIOU Toowoomba.**  
PICTURE: KEVIN FARMER