

Hi,

I'm Peter Gordon. I'm the Senior Partner of Gordon Legal and I'm Stephanie's lawyer.

My wife Kerri and I are two of a number of people who have come into the lives of Stephanie Browitt and her mum Marie since the horrific events on White island in December 2019 changed their lives forever.

We have set up the Stephanie Coral Browitt Necessitous Circumstances Trust to allow people who want to help Steph out financially to do so.

Setting up a Trust was not an idea of Steph's or Marie's, in fact it took some convincing for them to allow us to establish this Trust. What they want is justice for all of White Island's victims and accountability from those who have some responsibility for putting people on the island at all that day. They do not want charity. But as an experienced lawyer, I know the legal processes will take years and are uncertain and Stephanie's medical needs are very certain and very immediate.

Steph survived the volcanic eruption on White Island in December 2019. However, her sister Krystal and her father Paul did not. Krystal lost her life that day. Paul suffered horrifying injuries in the course of finding his daughters through the blinding black ash and boiling steam, shouting out encouragement to them through the boiling darkness and making sure he got them onto the rescue helicopter. His heroic actions saved Steph's life but his own burns on the island that day cost him his own life after a four week struggle in the burns unit of Melbourne's Alfred Hospital.

Steph suffered burns to over 70% of her body and pretty much all of the remaining 30% has been needed as donor sites for multiple skin grafts. She also had eight of her fingers amputated. She requires years of ongoing surgeries, laser treatments and painful rehabilitation.

Marie couldn't join her family on the White Island tour that day because she has debilitating Multiple Sclerosis. These days, Marie has to deal with her MS and her grief as she helps Steph get from one appointment to the next. She changes dressings, manages medication and co-ordinates treatments. And every day, she re-lives the horror of the volcano eruption and the life and death decisions she faced alone in the following weeks with one of her children dead, another battling for life and a husband desperately ill.

Their family home is an hour and a half from the medical facilities where Steph will need her regular surgical, physio, hand therapy and laser treatment over the next three years. Marie and Steph have had no home help. Much of Steph's necessary treatment is not covered by insurance.

We want to help with that and we know a lot of good people will want to as well.

As I said Steph and Marie are very clear they do not want charity. They've made it very clear to me that I need to emphasize that. But Kerri and I know that many of their friends and people who now know their story will want to find a way to help. And you can do so by making a donation through this website.

You don't have to know Steph to be a friend of Steph.

If you've been moved by her story or even just thought how your own family would cope with such a catastrophe, you can join us as friends of Steph.

We invite you to track her progress and join with other friends of Steph on this website from time to time.

Please do not feel obligated or any pressure to donate. We fully understand that you might feel exactly what we do for Marie and Steph but simply not be in a position to help out financially. In those circumstances, please feel free to just leave a message of support.

Thanks for your time and any support you can give.



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