

Rahul Wants to Live and be with his Family..

This is an appeal for a young Bangladeshi student (from Chittagong) in Australia, Rahul Baidya, to help him for his treatment of Blood Cancer (Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia).

Rahul was diagnosed with this disease in September 2010 and since then he has mostly been in hospital beds (at St George Public Hospital, Kogarah) for his intensive chemo and chemo-radiotherapy. Although doctors-in-charge of Rahul's treatment have given him hope of recovery and possible cure, but it will require a long time (another year or may be even more) of treatment and definitely a lot of money. The cost of the treatment is far beyond the ability of Rahul and his family. Rahul's father Mr Dilip Kumar Baidya (Deputy General Manager of a Private Firm in Bangladesh) recently visited Sydney to see his ailing son and was all in tears to seek help for his.



Rahul came to Australia as a Diploma in Accounting student in Ultimo TAFE College (later transferred to St George TAFE) in March 2010. At the end of his 1st semester, just before the final exam he was incidentally diagnosed with blood cancer, while he actually went to see the doctor for his fever. From then to date, it has been a story of pain and struggle for Rahul. For the first six months of this year, luckily he was still under student health insurance cover and he did not have to bear most of the expenses of his treatment. But after that, as he failed to maintain his studentship with TAFE due to his illness, his student health insurer refused to continue his insurance and his treatment and he was compelled to go for a costlier option of private health insurance (with Medibank) to apply for a medical visa. The name of the package is 'Top 85 Visitors' Insurance'. The premium of this insurance is very high and he has been allowed to pay it in instalments. The first instalment of AU\$5,000 has been paid by Rahul's father while he was in Sydney. The other instalments need to be paid soon.

This is just one side of the expenses, as the current insurance only covers Rahul's treatment cost while he is in Hospital (as an inpatient) but not anything while he is outside (an outpatient). As an outpatient, he still has to take a number of compulsory costly medications and according to Rahul's Social Worker's estimation, the combined treatment cost of Rahul as an outpatient is approximately AU\$1,200 per month. According to his Doctor's plan, Rahul needs to be under intensive chemo and chemo-radiotherapy up until middle of 2013 (may extend further depending on his health condition) and he has to continue taking a lot of these therapies as an outpatient.

To continue his treatment the amount of money needed is definitely beyond Rahul and his parent's ability but not to us all as a combined helping hands. So, on behalf of Rahul, I would like to appeal to all to come forward with a kind heart and donate some money to this young and bright student.

Money can be donated directly to Rahul's bank account-

Rahul Baidya, Commonwealth Bank, BSB- 062006, Account No. 11231381.

Should anyone needs more information about Rahul, may contact myself on 0404 040 163 or Dr Bijit Das on 0425 285 823.

Please donate generously to Rahul to continue his treatments and let us pray to almighty God for his quick recovery so he can go back to his parents. Rahul is currently staying in a poor living condition dormitory.

- **Nirmal Chowdhury, Sydney**
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