

# DCV SENIOR CAMP 2022 EVALUATION RESULTS

## WHAT IS SENIOR CAMP?

- Each year, Diabetes Camps Victoria (DCV) run camps for children living with type 1 Diabetes (T1D)
- Senior camp 2022 was a 3day/2night camp for children aged 12 - 14, and held in Sept 2022, after a hiatus during COVID-19
- Camps provide a safe environment with healthcare professionals where kids can learn, grow and connect with others their age living with T1D



## HOW WAS SENIOR CAMP EVALUATED?



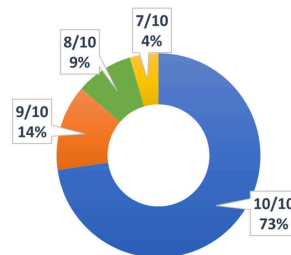
Post-camp survey (Distributed one week after camp and open for 2 weeks)

## WHAT WERE THE SENIOR CAMP SUCCESSES?

### Camp Reception

- High camp satisfaction from parent respondents
- Parents valued the respite from care for the duration of the camp
- Camp was an overall positive experience for children
- Staff/volunteers felt the camp was well run, activities were engaging, and several new processes were successful

ALMOST 3/4 OF PARENTS SCORED 10/10 ON  
LIKELINESS TO RECOMMEND SENIOR CAMP



### What parents said....

*'It's a great way for kids to realise they aren't alone, not the only ones in world, ...)*

*'It gave myself a break from the constant care'*

*'It helps the kids to make friends in the situation and develop more knowledge and confidence with diabetes.'*

\*Note: Blood Insulin Group (BIG) time is a set time scheduled in the camp program where all campers sit in their allocated group and check their blood glucose levels and administer insulin prior to meals under the guidance of a diabetes nurse educator and/or medical officer.

## Camp Effectiveness

- 4/5 parent respondents felt their child gained what they hoped they would from attending camp
- Social outcomes were frequently mentioned, along with various aspects of camper growth and development
- Almost 1/2 of parent respondents reported they had already observed their child use skills learnt at camp

### Camper Outcomes...



#### Diabetes Management

- Learned new diabetes management skills/knowledge
- Gained confidence in diabetes management
- Normalised life with diabetes



#### Social

- Sense of belonging
- Connections with other T1D children
- Shared experiences
- Lasting bonds/friendships



#### Life skills/Growth

- Campers gained general confidence
- Realising a T1D diagnosis does not limit their potential

### Quotes from parents

*'My daughter absolutely loves attending camp. Being a little older, she found she could talk more in-depth about living with T1 & came home beaming! She said "I've found my people". It is the one place where she isn't treated differently. She feels like she isn't alone & can just "be".'*

*'My son really enjoyed camp, and learnt new things through chatting with other kids regarding their pumps/technology etc.'*

*'He has taken greater responsibility and knows he can manage it independently, that he doesn't have to be anxious about staying away...'*

## The experience of staff and volunteers

- Staff/volunteers reported their own growth through interactions with T1D campers and learning more about T1D
- Staff/volunteers also reported camp being a fulfilling experience

Learnings and insights from camp

Positive experience at camp

Impact on staff/volunteers

Sense of achievement/fulfilment

Development of skills (e.g. Leadership, teamwork, T1D management)

## WHAT ARE OUR OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE?

1

A longer camp was the most popular suggestion from parents and staff/ volunteers. Some suggest this could increase camp impact.

2

Revise the delivery and range of camp activities. This includes reviewing the length of activities.

3

Review some camp administration processes. This includes some suggestions on making check-in/check-out more efficient, on improving communications with staff/volunteers, and on information for health professionals.