

## My mum's got cancer

By Dr Lucy Blunt

Illustrated by her daughter  
Eloise Osborn

“What am I going to tell my children?”

According to leading oncologist Associate Professor Fran Boyle, OAM, this is the first question young mothers ask when given the heart-breaking news that they have breast cancer. This was certainly the case for Dr Lucy Blunt, mother of 3 year old Eloise and 9 ½ month old Chloe, when Lucy was diagnosed in 2000.

During her year's worth of surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy, Lucy looked for resources that she could use with her children to explain what was happening to her, and was astonished to find that there was nothing available.

So, in 2004, she wrote *My Mum's Got Cancer*, which daughter Eloise (who was 7 at the time) illustrated. On May 12, this incredibly honest and invaluable picture book with a difference, will be launched by Quest for Life founder, Petrea King and Associate Professor Fran Boyle.

Lucy's idea for *My Mum's Got Cancer* was to provide information and practical advice for parents and children who are dealing with the stress of a parent's cancer diagnosis and treatment, in an honest and clear way. Lucy and Eloise have unquestionably achieved this. The book offers support and comfort to children and will be an invaluable resource for their family, school and the wider community.

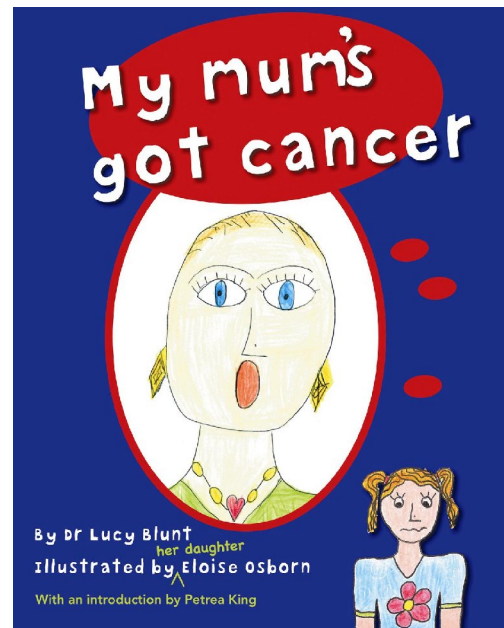
Lucy learnt many things on her journey, which she shares in the book, including:

- ◆ It takes a community to fight cancer.
- ◆ The cancer journey is predictable to a degree, even when it feels out of control and very frightening.
- ◆ There are some things that you can do with your children along the way that will help them. The journey is a process and it will end at some point.
- ◆ That loving and being loved are critical to being a family - no matter what else is happening.

The book is best summed up by Petrea King in her introduction, when she says “*My Mum's Got Cancer* provides a safe avenue for the gentle conversations of the heart that deepen the bonds of the loving relationship between parent and child.”

**Lucy and Eloise are highly recommended for interview**

To organise an interview or for further information, please contact:  
Sue Anna Purcell on mob: 041 436 2858 or email: [sueanna@optusnet.com.au](mailto:sueanna@optusnet.com.au)



## About the Author

Lucy Blunt was born in New Zealand, but grew up in Sydney. She completed a Bachelor of Arts at Sydney University before moving to Melbourne for a year to undertake a Graduate Diploma in Applied Psychology at Swinburne University.

She returned to Sydney in 1990 and began work with DoCS, working with abused children and preparing reports for the Children's Court. She undertook a Masters and then PhD in Clinical Psychology at the University of Wollongong, studying part time, working full time and also running a private practice. She met her husband Peter while swim training at North Sydney pool during this time.

Lucy moved to the Dept of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (Sydney Children's Hospital - Randwick) in 1996. While working there she gave birth to two children and one PhD thesis - she thinks the PhD thesis was harder.

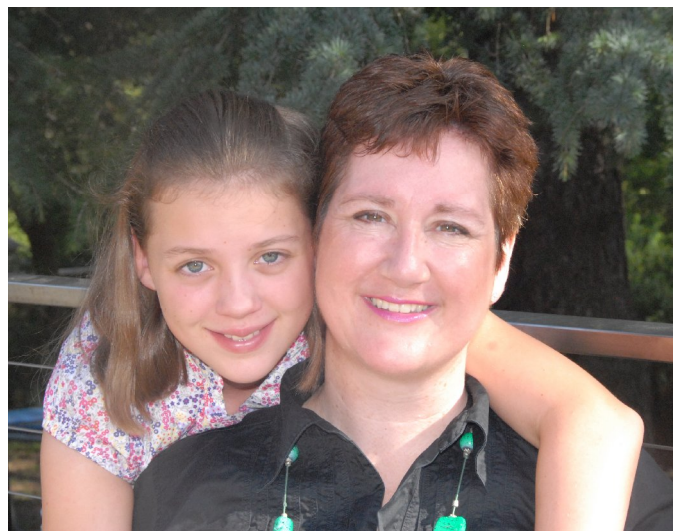
Lucy is a regular presenter at preschools and is frequently interviewed on radio and television on psychologically related matters. She is a consultant to many reality TV programs, including "Honey We're Killing the Kids" and "Make Me A Super Model".

## About the Illustrator

Eloise is now nearly 12 years old and in Year 6 in Sydney. She is very proud that she will be a House Captain at her school this year. She took 2 years to complete the illustrations for her book - miraculously finding that *tidying her room (!)*, jumping on the trampoline and escaping next door to visit her friend all took precedence over settling down to create 34 drawings. Financial bribery and multiple threats eventually saw the completion of the task.

## SUGGESTED QUESTIONS FOR LUCY & ELOISE

- ◆ What was it like working on the project together?
- ◆ Any hiccups along the way?
- ◆ Eloise - what do you think of having illustrated and published your first book by 12 years of age?
- ◆ What was it like working with your mum?
- ◆ How did the book come to be endorsed by Petrea King and Fran Boyle?
- ◆ What is hard about the breast cancer journey for a family?
- ◆ What is it like being a young person with breast cancer - we usually think of cancer as being an old person's disease?
- ◆ So, what's next?



Dr Lucy Blunt will be hosting a blog during May via [www.janecurrypublishing.com.au](http://www.janecurrypublishing.com.au)  
Lucy is happy to answer questions and give feedback.