

Gail Tilbrook

Gail recently returned from Canada and the US where she was founder and president of her own marketing, advertising and product development company. Gail was recipient of the Washington Hall of Congress Who's Who in Business Female Entrepreneur Award in 2000. Prior to her time overseas she was marketing manager for a major radio station and for the state government statutory authority Living Health/Foundation SA. In her early career Gail was a registered nurse and later trained in chiropractic.

Gail is the mother of three adult children.

Asthma Sucks

Gail Tilbrook – Parent

In this presentation I will talk about my experiences living with and raising two children who suffer daily with the debilitating symptoms of asthma. I will share with you the impact this has had on siblings, work and family life. I will tell you just how bad my kids' asthma was then, and still is today.

I will tell a story about how the health system failed us, the strength I had to find as their mother, the dangerous situations my children survived, the additional health problems caused by their asthma, and how their education suffered because of frequent hospitalisations.

This story continues into their young adult years where I have no control over their asthma and how they manage their health. While today they are successful young business people, they not only ignore the severity of their disease but they do that because of fear, general apathy towards asthma and because of peer pressure.

Why is it that nothing has changed? How can it be that twenty years have passed and their medications are the same as they were when they were young children? Why do I see people with asthma who clearly are untreated walking our streets?