



Sick son inspires dad

THE shock diagnosis of his son as having muscular dystrophy has inspired Campbellfield's Ozi Akyildiz to raise more than \$40,000 for medical research.

The news last May that his son Kaya, 6, suffered muscular dystrophy duchenne, a disease characterised by rapid muscle degeneration, was a lifechanging experience for Mr Akyildiz and his family.

"We'd never heard of it so it was a complete shock and we were all mentally and physically strained," he said. "But then you think instead of sobbing, why don't we get out there and do something about it?"

With backing from his workmates at Preston Motors and YPA Real Estate, a fun run/family day at Albert Park Lake was swiftly put into action.

With 250 sponsored runners taking part in the event on February 15, the total funds raised far exceeded Mr Akyildiz's expectations.

"It was just overwhelming how much support we got. We're just ecstatic that we can end up giving \$40,196 to the research foundation," he said.

Boris Struk, executive director of Muscular Dystrophy Australia, said the generous donation was fantastic.

"It's amazing to have a family touched by MD to get involved in fundraising so quickly," Mr Struk said.

"And it's events like this that spread the word and make people in the wider community more aware of MD and that leads to even greater support."



These runners helped raise \$40,196 for muscular dystrophy research.