We have such fond memories of life on the farm, before AMD took it all away.

Dear Supporter,

I write to you today as a wife, a mother, and a woman whose life will never be the same.

For most of our marriage, Colin was an energetic, independent man who did everything for his family. We raised three beautiful daughters together and had a wonderful life living and working on the farm that had been in his family for generations.

And then he noticed a change in his vision. It started slowly, so we didn't think too much about it, just put it down to getting older. But the next time he went to have his eyes checked, Colin's eye doctor told him that he had what they called 'dry' age-related macular degeneration (AMD), or Geographic Atrophy (GA).

From that moment, AMD took everything away from us. Colin had always loved being a farmer. It was all he'd ever wanted to do, and he was proud of the legacy that he was carrying on in his family's name. But once his sight started to go, he just couldn't keep up with all the work and the farm went downhill. Our hearts broke the day we decided that we had to face facts and sell up. We can't even bear to drive past the old place, it's just too painful a reminder of everything we've lost.

Instead of enjoying our retirement, I'm caring for Colin full-time.

Life is just so difficult now. It's not easy being the full-time carer of someone who is legally blind, and there are times we're sitting there at the kitchen table and I think, thank goodness he can't see the tears in my eyes as I wonder what happened to the man I married, who was such a go-getter.

Now when one of our daughters walks into a room, Colin doesn't even know they're there unless they speak to him; he just can't see them. He hasn't seen their faces in such a long time, hasn't seen them smile or cry, hasn't seen how much his grandkids have grown.

As if that wasn't enough, now our daughters have all been diagnosed with the early stages of AMD. It terrifies me to think that they could end up in the same boat as their father in 20 years' time. Knowing what we've been through, I wouldn't wish it on anybody.

Without research, there is no hope for a cure for AMD. Macular Disease Foundation Australia is the only organisation in Australia whose sole purpose is to support and represent the interests of people living with macular disease, and they are working hard to find a treatment for AMD that could stop sight loss.

It's too late for Colin, but it's not too late to give our daughters some hope that there could one day be a way to stop the same thing happening to them and their children.

I hope you will see your way to making a gift to fund research. To be honest, it's the only hope for families like mine.

Thank you,

Pam


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We hope research can find a cure for AMD-related sight loss, for our daughters' sake.

Scan here to hear our story and make a gift.