

13 November 2020

Family in the spotlight after VICSES deputy's serious diagnosis



Emily (right) with her wife Katie

Behind every brave and hard-working Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES) volunteer is a support network of people that help them achieve amazing things.

Highly respected Hepburn Shire deputy controller Emily Pullen has had a long and tough year, diagnosed with both a neurological and auto-immune disorder in the middle of a pandemic – and forced to pause her hands-on volunteering while she receives further treatment.

Emily has taken the opportunity to thank her dedicated wife Katie and fellow unit members as part of the 'Your Family, Our Family' campaign, which highlights the sacrifices of VICSES member's loved ones.

The deputy controller remains in the role of Duty Officer while Katie keeps the family's small business afloat, and Emily's fellow VICSES volunteers take over her key tasks, callouts, and funding applications.

Emily also has regular catch-ups online with her family in South Australia, who she hopes to see soon.

'YFOF' takes place on [14 & 15 November](#), and is an opportunity to thank the numerous people supporting every member of VICSES. They are the unsung heroes behind Victoria's first responders.

For more information, contact:

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Quotes attributable to VICSES' Hepburn Shire unit deputy controller Emily Pullen:

"It's been a hard year for me, diagnosed with two serious medical issues in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. I would usually get out on a VICSES truck to help people – but that just hasn't happened."

"My wife Katie has been working seven days a week to keep our gardening and maintenance business afloat. She's a wonderful person and has allowed me to be an active VICSES volunteer for the last five years, and spend 2020 recovering and volunteering behind the scenes."

"My family are all in South Australia, so their love and support comes from afar for now. My other family, the Hepburn Shire unit, have also been profoundly patient and caring this year."