

# Mum does it for kids



Julie Toivonen with her son Ronan.

JULIE Toivonen is Enos's Local Hero, thanks to her work supporting parents of premature babies.

The Wandsworth mum's drive to support parents of premature babies came after her son was born six weeks early in March 2006. It was at this time she identified the need for a network supporting, informing and helping parents.

Ms Toivonen has created her own website ([www.lilacsideprema.com.au](http://www.lilacsideprema.com.au)) offering support to parents of premature babies and has received an overwhelming response from parents nationwide.

She is a committee member of Life's Little Treasures and the National Premature Foundation, support groups that raise funds for equipment and medical research into premature births.

Ms Toivonen said she and her husband, Mark, simply did not know what to do when Ronan was born.

The tiny infant was immediately whisked away to intensive care, and the two first-time parents were left confused and afraid.

"As parents it was quite daunting to go into the hospital every day and wonder whether your child is going to survive," she said.

After a rocky start, Ronan overcame chronic lung diseases and heart problems to begin living life normally.

But Ms Toivonen said she was still reminded of his obstacles. "He is a bit slow to his milestones," she said.