



Max Appeal Member - Father of a 22Q11 Adult now 33 years of age

22Q11 and Special Lives

If a child or young adult has 22Q11 disabilities with complex special needs
It can also be a lifelong blessing for parents who can sow the seeds
Which feed our spirit and make us join and form international support groups
Like Max Appeal - unique mums and dads, a very special and selfless troop

Proud soldiers, quietly fighting with a common target in mind
For we have to arm ourselves and crawl through the trenches to find
Love, early anticipatory support, and shelter for our precious offspring's lives
And hope the UK Government Agencies don't wield a knife

As they live through the slashing of services in austerity, not expected
This leads to their dragging families down, so all are affected
But we never sink, we swim back to the top
And Max Appeal coordinate, help shout and lobby for officials to stop

And then we ask MPs and Government Agencies - how they would feel
If it was their child or adult accidentally crushed under the heel
Of budget holders with CHC or Social Care funds being withdrawn?
Would they accept it, or fight to recover, through every morn to dawn?

For we just want our offspring to have their needs fully recognised
By Education, Social Services, and the NHS, working together, having realised
That autism and ADHD and physical limitations, maybe too, shouts or screams
Cause changes to daily plans, sometimes removing parents' hopes and dreams

Then, as we plan and look far (far?) ahead
What will happen, we think, when the parents are both dead
For the siblings will have to learn to take over the 22Q11 lifelong care
And fit that into their own lives, to us it just doesn't always seem fair

And so, as others live normally and have fun and mature
We want Government Agencies to learn about 22Q11 and coordinate for sure
Meanwhile we get stronger by being with other empathetic fathers and mothers
For our united troops' needs are perhaps, more complex than many others

December 2023 Peter McCann Ledbury Herefordshire Resident